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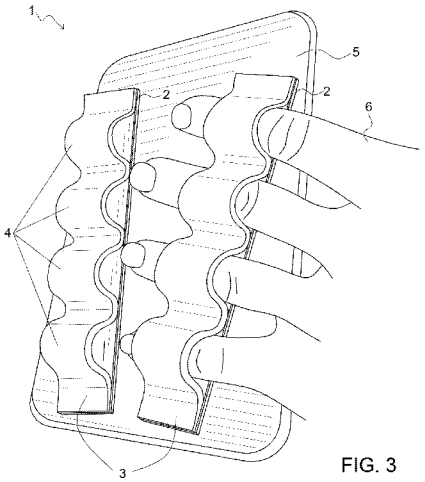


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: What is disclosed is a securement device to make it much easier for a user to securely hold onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader, a tablet computing device, a cellular phone, a personal data assistant, and a common clipboard - while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands. A typical embodiment of the present disclosure solves this problem by providing a system of one or more finger holds formed with a fabric or pliable material (e.g., polypropylene, nylon, neoprene, cloth, vinyl, rubber, elastomeric material, etc.) that are disposed on the back side of the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device. In many embodiments, the position and fit of the finger holds are easily adjustable by a user via hook-and-loop schemes.

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HOLDING AID FOR A PERSONAL, HAND-HELD, TABLET-SHAPED DEVICE AND METHODS OF USE

BACKGROUND

The marketplace has seen the proliferation of many types of personal, hand-held, electronic devices over the last decade or so. Such devices are typically thin and tablet-shaped, and include the popular electronic readers (so-called "e-readers"), such as the Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®. Other similar devices include new versions of tablet computers such as the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many other related devices in an ever-expanding market. A primary and very popular use for these types of personal electronic devices is to display and read electronic books in lieu of a traditional bound, typeset book. In addition, most of these types of devices also support the display and viewing of various other types of media; e.g., photos, web pages, video, etc.

The manufacturers of such personal, hand-held, electronic devices generally try to design them to be fairly thin and relatively light-weight so that users are not overly burdened to store, carry, and hold the devices. Nevertheless, a typical user may spend many hours reading in a given setting, such as relaxing to read while in a reclining chair or bed, and often finds it uncomfortable to have to grip the device over such a long period of time due to fatigue or even cramping. In addition, users often find themselves needing to do other things; e.g., moving around, getting a cup of coffee, etc.; and can find themselves inadvertently fumbling with their hand-held tablet-shaped device and/or dropping the device altogether. Similarly, if a user chooses to try and hold such a device without gripping it, and instead merely balance it on the user's hand(s), that can prove to be taxing on a user over an extended period of time as well.

There are devices known for assisting a user in the holding of a book, a clipboard, and the like, in settings where there is no readily available platform such as a podium or table to conveniently set down the book or clipboard while reading from it. Many of those solutions are directed to detachably mounting the book or tablet-shaped item onto some sort of fixed structure to free a user's hands during use. In other solutions that are specifically directed to a traditional book, a strap is provided along the spine of the book for a user to slip his or her hand through such that the spine of the book rests in the palm of the user hand while the strap exerts pressure on the back side of the user's hand to allow the user to hold the book without much effort. This latter solution is somewhat impractical to employ for a personal, hand-

held, tablet-shaped electronic device, and the security of the user's hold on the device is not optimum, especially when one considers the monetary investment made to obtain the electronic device in the first place.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 depicts one embodiment of the back-panel side of a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device, such as an e-reader, to which is attached a pair of back-panel coupling members, each of which is comprised of an adhesively attached strip for secure attachment to the back panel of the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device. The outer side of each back-panel coupling member comprises one mating part of coupling system for coupling with a finger-grip member. Often this coupling system is hook-and-loop coupling system. Each finger-grip member that is coupled to its respective back-panel coupling member has at least one aperture adapted for receiving a user finger.

Figure 2 depicts one embodiment of the back-panel side of a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device, such as an e-reader, to which is attached a plurality of back-panel coupling members that forms one big back-panel coupling member, each of which is comprised of an adhesively attached strip for secure attachment to the back panel of the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device. In a variation, instead of being a plurality of such strips, the back-panel coupling member can be a single wide mat of the same material. The outer side of the back-panel coupling member comprises one mating part of coupling system for coupling with one or more finger-grip members. Often this coupling system is hook-and-loop coupling system. Each finger-grip member that is coupled to the back-panel coupling member has at least one aperture adapted for receiving a user finger.

Figure 3 depicts the embodiment of **Figure 1**; however, this figure also shows an example of the engagement of one of the finger-grip members with four fingers of a user hand.

Figure 4 depicts one embodiment of the front view of same embodiment shown in **Figure 3**.

Figure 5 depicts the embodiment of **Figure 1**, except that one of the finger-grip members is shown detached from its back-panel coupling member and flipped over in order to show the finger-grip member's "hook" part of a hook-and-loop for coupling with a back-panel member.

Figure 6 depicts the embodiment of **Figure 2**; however, this figure also shows an example of the engagement of one of the finger-grip members with four fingers of a user hand.

Figure 7 depicts one embodiment of a set of variously sized and shaped back-panel coupling members and a set of variously sized finger-grip members that might be contained in a kit to facilitate a user's ability to assemble and install a securement apparatus on the back of a user-selected personal, tablet-shaped device. These depicted sets are not intended to limit the number and various sizes and shapes of such components that could be included in such a kit. In addition, this figure also shows two examples of a user-adjustable finger-grip aperture (see items **4A**).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Overview

The present disclosure is directed generally to a securement device to make it much easier for a user to securely hold onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, a personal data assistant (PDA), and even just a common clipboard — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands. A typical embodiment of the present inventive disclosure solves this problem by providing a system of one or more finger holds formed with a fabric or pliable material (e.g., polypropylene, nylon, neoprene, cloth, vinyl, rubber, elastomeric material, etc.) that are disposed on the back side of the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device.

Taking a Kindle® e-reader in one embodiment, the e-reader has an attached mat of one side of a hook-and-loop coupler (usually, this would be the "loop" part) to the back side of the e-reader. This mat could be one large mat, or a plurality of strips or patches of matting. In any event, a user can attach to that mat one or more finger-grip members by way of the matching part of the hook-and-loop coupler. Each finger-grip member can have one or more apertures for receiving a user finger, with the apertures in each finger-grip member generally aligned in parallel with each other. In a variation for this e-reader example, there are two finger-grip members, each having four apertures designed to receive the four digits (excluding the thumb) on each of the user's hands. Because each finger-grip member is easily detachable (via the hook-and-loop coupling), each finger-grip member can be

positioned any way a user finds more convenient. A user can even decide to employ only one of the finger-grip members.

In other embodiments, the finger-grip member can be attached on either of its longitudinal sides via the hook-and-loop coupling. In still other embodiments, the basic principle underlying the above-described embodiments could be applied to even cell phones, where perhaps there is only a single finger-grip member and that finger-grip member has only one or two apertures for receiving a user finger (or perhaps two user fingers) to help a user hold onto his or her cell phone while walking and doing various activities.

In still more embodiments, the securement device is built into, or installed onto, the back side of a protective cover that is designed to receive a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device. Such protective covers (or sometimes referred to in the art as "skins") can be made of plastic, rubber, silicone, or some other suitable material that can provide shock absorption and/or scratch resistance protection for the generally encased personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device.

Of course, a secondary use of the back-side-mounted mat on the tablet-shaped device is to mount the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device on any surface that happens to have a mating part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

Terminology

The terms and phrases as indicated in quotes (" ") in this section are intended to have the meaning ascribed to them in this Terminology section applied to them throughout this document, including the claims, unless clearly indicated otherwise in context. Further, as applicable, the stated definitions are to apply, regardless of the word or phrase's case, to the singular and plural variations of the defined word or phrase.

The term "or", as used in this specification and the appended claims, is not meant to be exclusive; rather, the term is inclusive, meaning "either or both".

References in the specification to "one embodiment", "an embodiment", "a preferred embodiment", "an alternative embodiment", "a variation", "one variation", and similar phrases mean that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least an embodiment of the invention. The appearances of the phrase "in one embodiment" and/or "in one variation" in various places in the specification are not necessarily all meant to refer to the same embodiment.

The term "couple" or "coupled", as used in this specification and the appended claims, refers to either an indirect or a direct connection between the identified elements, components, or objects. Often the manner of the coupling will be related specifically to the manner in which the two coupled elements interact.

The term "removable", "removably coupled", "readily removable", "readily detachable", and similar terms, as used in this patent application specification (including the claims and drawings), refer to structures that can be uncoupled from an adjoining structure with relative ease (i.e., non-destructively and without a complicated or time-consuming process) and that can also be readily reattached or coupled to the previously adjoining structure.

Directional and/or relational terms such as, but not limited to, left, right, nadir, apex, top, bottom, vertical, horizontal, back, front, and lateral are relative to each other, are dependent on the specific orientation of an applicable element or article, are used accordingly to aid in the description of the various embodiments, and are not necessarily intended to be construed as limiting.

As applicable, the terms "about" or "generally", as used herein unless otherwise indicated, means a margin of +- 20%. Also, as applicable, the term "substantially" as used herein unless otherwise indicated means a margin of +- 10%. It is to be appreciated that not all uses of the above terms are quantifiable such that the referenced ranges can be applied.

The terms "a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device" and "a personal tablet-shaped device", as used in this specification and the appended claims, generically refers to any substantially tablet-shaped personal hand-held electronic device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, and a personal data assistant (PDA). In alternative embodiments, term "a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device" can also refer to a common clipboard.

First Embodiment — An Ergonomic User-Hand-Engagement Apparatus for a Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to an ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus for a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic

reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a plain old clipboard — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. A typical embodiment of the present inventive disclosure solves this problem by providing a system of one or more finger-grip members **3** formed with a fabric or pliable material that is comprised of polypropylene, nylon, neoprene, cloth, vinyl, rubber, or other suitable materials, wherein the finger-grip members **3** are detachably coupled to a the back panel of the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5** by way of a detachable coupling with one or more back-panel members **2**, which in turn are securely attached to the back panel of the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5**. Hereinafter, for exemplary purposes only, the term "personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device" **5** will be substituted with "e-reader" **5**; however, one skilled in the art would appreciate that myriad similarly shaped devices can be used with the ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus described herein, and therefore are contemplated to be encompassed by this embodiment.

In an embodiment, the e-reader **5** has an attached mat **2** (the back-panel coupling member **2**) of one side of a hook-and-loop coupler (usually, this would be the "loop" part to aid in user comfort when handling the e-reader **5**, and protect surfaces upon which the e-reader **5** might be laid) to the back side of the e-reader **5**. This mat **2** could be one large mat, or a plurality of strips or patches of matting of various sizes and shapes that allow the back-panel coupling device **2** to be adapted to the topography of the back of the e-reader **5**. In many variations, the mat **2** is attached to the back panel of the e-reader **5** using an adhesive medium.

In an embodiment, a user can attach to the mat **2** one or more finger-grip members **3** by way of the matching part of the hook-and-loop coupler. Each finger-grip member **3** can have one or more apertures **4** for receiving a user finger **6**, with the apertures **4** in each finger-grip member **3** generally aligned in parallel with each other. In a variation, there are two finger-grip members **3**, each having four apertures **4** designed to receive the four digits (excluding the thumb) on each of the user's hands **6**. A user would have the option of engaging the e-reader **5** with one or both of the user's hands **6** with a respective finger-grip member **3**. Because each finger-grip member **3** is easily detachable (via the hook-and-loop coupling), each finger-grip member **3** can be positioned on the back-panel coupling member **2** any way a user finds more convenient. A user can even decide to employ only one of the

finger-grip members **3**. In various embodiments, each finger-grip member **3** is comprised of a fabric or pliable material such as of polypropylene webbing, nylon, neoprene, cloth, terry cloth, vinyl, rubber, or other suitable materials, wherein the finger-receiving apertures **4** are formed by sewing or otherwise securely attaching (e.g., thermoplastic welding, adhesives, etc.) intermittent portions of the finger-grip aperture **4** material to the substrate that comprises the back-panel coupling surface on the side of the substrate opposite of the finger-grip apertures **4**.

In other variations of this embodiment, the detachable coupling scheme between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the finger-grip member(s) **3** can be by way of using mechanical snaps or magnetic coupling, wherein, obviously, both the back-panel coupling member and the finger-grip member(s) **3** would have to have the appropriate hardware built into them to support either of those coupling schemes.

In still other embodiments, the finger-grip member **3** can be attached to the back-panel coupling member **2** using either of the finger-grip member's **3** longitudinal sides via the coupling scheme used for the apparatus, discussed *supra*.

In some variations, the finger-grip member(s) **3** have size-adjustable finger-receiving apertures **4** so that a user can adjust the fit to the user's inserted finger(s) **6** to the user's preference and comfort. For example, in one such variation, one or more of the finger-receiving apertures **4** is a small strap that can be coupled at various lengths at least one end of the small strap to the substrate of the finger-grip member **3**. In some other embodiments, the finger-grip apertures **4** are adapted to snuggly fit onto one or more inserted user fingers **6**, wherein the material used to form the finger-grip aperture(s) **4** is elastic in nature and sized slightly smaller than the diameter of a targeted user's finger.

In more embodiments, the basic principle underlying the above-described embodiments could be applied to relatively small personal, tablet-shaped, electronic devices **5** such as cell phones, wherein in an embodiment there is only a single finger-grip member **3** and that finger-grip member **3** has only one or two apertures **4** for receiving a user finger **6** (or, in a variation, perhaps two user fingers) to help a user hold onto his or her cell phone **5** while walking and doing various activities.

In yet other variations, the basic principle underlying the above-described embodiments could be applied to non-electronic, personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped devices **5** such as clip boards and other types of notebooks.

As a result of adding the apparatus described *supra* to a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device, a new and improved device **1** is formed to minimize the chance of a user inadvertently dropping his or her device and damaging it.

In still more embodiments, the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5** incorporates a partially encasing protective covering (sometimes referred to in the art as "skins") made of plastic, rubber, silicone, or some other similar material, and the ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus **1** described herein is installed on the exterior side of the protective cover that substantially covers the back panel of the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5**. Such protective coverings typically provide scratch resistance and/or shock absorption for the devices when dropped, mishandled, etc., while still having openings in the protective covering to allow a user to access controls and see the display screen; hence, such coverings are referred to herein as "partially encasing" the associated personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5**. In a variant of this embodiment, the back-panel coupling member **2** of the securement device is built into/formed within the back side of a protective cover that is designed to receive a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5**.

Of course, a secondary use of the back-side-mounted mat **2** (that is, the back-panel coupling member **2**) on the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5** is to mount the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device **5** on any surface that happens to have an effective mating part of a coupling scheme, discussed *supra*. For example, in a variation, the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling scheme is disposed on the back panel of an e-reader **5** such that the e-reader **5** could be detachably mounted on any surface that can serve as the "hook" part of the hook-and-loop coupling.

Second Embodiment — An Ergonomic User-Hand-Engagement Apparatus for a Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to an ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus for a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to an apparatus for holding a

personal tablet-shaped device **5** in a user's hand **6**, wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** has a substantially planar portion on its back surface. The apparatus comprises:

- a back-panel coupling member **2** configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface of a personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and
- at least one finger-grip member **3** configured for detachable coupling to the back-panel coupling member **2**, wherein the at least one finger-grip member **3** can be detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2** in a user-specified orientation relative to the substantially planar back surface of a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at the least one finger-grip member **3** is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device, each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand **6**; each at least one looped aperture **4** is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially parallel to the substantially planar back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold the personal tablet-shaped device **5** without a user having to consciously grip the personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each looped aperture **4** is adapted to receive only one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger **6**. In a further variation of this, at least one said finger-grip member **3** looped aperture **4** is defined by a strap of material **4A** that is fixedly coupled at a point along the strap **4A** to the finger-grip member **3**; that strap of material **4A** has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and that strap of material **4A** can be made into a variable-sized aperture **4** by detachably coupling a portion of the "loop" part of the strap **4A** to a portion of the "hook" part of the strap **4A**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the apparatus **1** is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device **5** selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the apparatus **1** is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device **5** that is at least partially encased within a protective covering. In some variations, such a protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone, though other suitable elastic materials could also be used.

In still other variations, the back-panel coupling member **2** is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device **5** by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

Third Embodiment — A Method of Making an Ergonomic User-Hand-Engagement Apparatus for a Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a method of making an ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus for a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device, designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common clipboard — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a method of making an apparatus for holding a personal tablet-shaped device **5** in a user's hand **6**, wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** has a substantially planar portion on its back surface. The method comprises the steps of:

- Providing a back-panel coupling member **2** configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface of a personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and
- Providing at least one finger-grip member **3** configured for detachable coupling to the back-panel coupling member **2**, wherein the at least one finger-grip member **3** can be detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2** in a user-specified orientation relative to the substantially planar back surface of a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device,

each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand **6**; each at least one looped aperture **4** is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially parallel to the substantially planar back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold the personal tablet-shaped device **5** without a user having to consciously grip the personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each looped aperture **4** is adapted to receive only one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger **6**. In a further variation of this, at least one said finger-grip member **3** looped aperture **4** is defined by a strap of material **4A** that is fixedly coupled at a point along the strap **4A** to the finger-grip member **3**; that strap of material **4A** has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and the strap **4A** can be made into a variable-sized aperture **4** by detachably coupling a portion of the "loop" part of the strap **4A** to a portion of the "hook" part of the strap **4A**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the apparatus **1** is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device **5** selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the apparatus **1** is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device **5** that is at least partially encased within a protective covering. In some variations, such a protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone, though other suitable elastic materials could also be used.

In still other variations, the back-panel coupling member **2** is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device **5** by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

Fourth Embodiment — A Method of Using an Ergonomic User-Hand-Engagement Apparatus for a Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a method of using an ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus for a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device according to either the first or Second Embodiments, described *supra*, wherein the apparatus is designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common clipboard — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a method of using an apparatus **1** according to the First Embodiment or the Second Embodiment, described *supra*, in a user's hand **6**. The method comprises the steps of:

- Obtaining a personal tablet-shaped device **5** equipped with an apparatus **1** for securely holding the personal tablet-shaped device **5** in a user's hand **6** according to the First Embodiment or the Second Embodiment, described *supra*;
- Inserting at least one finger of the user's hand **6** into one of said at least one looped apertures **4** disposed within the at least one finger-grip members **3**; and
- Holding the personal tablet-shaped device **5** without needing to grip the personal tablet-shaped device **5** using the user's opposing thumb.

This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising the step of adjusting the placement of the back-panel coupling member **2** according to the user's preference.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the step for inserting at least one finger of the user's hand **6** is applied to the user's right hand, as inserted into a first finger-grip member **3**, and is applied to the user's left hand **6**, as inserted into a second finger-grip member **3**.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the step of, before the inserting step, adjusting the position of at least one finger-grip member **3** on the back-panel coupling member **2** according to the user's preference and comfort.

This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising the step of adjusting the fit of at least one finger-grip member **3** looped aperture **4** over at least one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

Fifth Embodiment — A Kit for Assembling and Installing an Ergonomic User-Hand-Engagement Apparatus for a Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a kit for assembling and installing an ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto the target personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a kit for assembling an apparatus **1** according to the First or Second Embodiments, described *supra*, for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device **5** in a user's hand, the personal tablet-shaped device **5** having a substantially planar portion on its back surface. The kit comprises:

- a plurality of variously sized and shaped pieces of matting **2** (see **Figure 7**) for assembling a back-panel coupling member **2** to be installed on a substantially planar back surface of a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**, wherein the matting pieces **2** have a first side that can be adhesively attached to the substantially planar back surface of the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**, the matting pieces **2** have a second side adapted to be detachably coupled to at least one finger-grip member **3**, and the diversity of the variously sized and shaped pieces of matting **2** is such that a subset of those pieces of

matting **2** can be assembled and installed on the substantially planar back surface of a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5** by a user to provide an effective coupling surface for the at least one finger-grip member **3**; and

- a plurality of finger-grip members **3** (see **Figure 7**) adapted to be detachably coupled to a back-panel coupling member **2** installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**, wherein the plurality of finger-grip members **3** are provided in various sizes to facilitate a user's ability to select one or more properly sized finger-grip members **3** for attachment to the back-panel coupling member **2**, and each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** is adapted to be detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2** in a user-specified orientation relative to the substantially planar back surface of the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member **2** and any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member **2** and any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling, the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling, and the user-selected finger-grip members' **3** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member **2** and any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling, the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling, and the user-selected finger-grip members' **3** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand **6**; when any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is attached to a back-panel coupling member **2** assembled and installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped

device **5**, each at least one looped aperture **4** on each user-selected finger-grip member **3** is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially parallel to the substantially planar back surface of the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and the snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5** without a user having to consciously grip the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each looped aperture **4** is adapted to receive only one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** on each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** is defined by a strap of material **4A** that is fixedly coupled at a point along the strap **4A** to the respective finger-grip member **3** substrate; the strap of material **4A** has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and the strap of material **4A** can be made into a variable-sized aperture **4** by detachably coupling a portion of the "loop" part of the strap **4A** to a portion of the "hook" part of the strap **4A**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the kit is adapted for a user to assemble and install a securement apparatus on a plurality of variously sized personal tablet-shaped devices selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the kit is adapted to facilitate the assembly of an apparatus **1** for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device **5** that is at least partially encased within a protective covering. In other variations, the protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone, though other suitable elastic materials can be used.

In still other variations, the matting pieces **2** that comprise the back-panel coupling member **2** are configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device **5** by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

Sixth Embodiment — A Method of Making a Kit for Assembling and Installing an Ergonomic User-Hand-Engagement Apparatus for a Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a method for making kit for assembling and installing an ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto the target personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a method for making a kit for assembling an apparatus **1** according to the First or Second Embodiments, described *supra*, for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device **5** in a user's hand, the personal tablet-shaped device **5** having a substantially planar portion on its back surface. The method comprises the steps of:

- Providing a plurality of variously sized and shaped pieces of matting **2** (see **Figure 7**) for assembling a back-panel coupling member **2** to be installed on a substantially planar back surface of a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**, wherein the matting pieces **2** have a first side that can be adhesively attached to the substantially planar back surface of the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**, the matting pieces **2** have a second side adapted to be detachably coupled to at least one finger-grip member **3**, and the diversity of the variously sized and shaped pieces of matting **2** is such that a subset of those pieces of matting **2** can be assembled and installed on the substantially planar back surface of a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5** by a user to provide an effective coupling surface for the at least one finger-grip member **3**; and

- Providing a plurality of finger-grip members **3** (see **Figure 7**) adapted to be detachably coupled to a back-panel coupling member **2** installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**, wherein the plurality of finger-grip members **3** are provided in various sizes to facilitate a user's ability to select one or more properly sized finger-grip members **3** for attachment to the back-panel coupling member **2**, and each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** is adapted to be detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2** in a user-specified

orientation relative to the substantially planar back surface of the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member **2** and any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member **2** and any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling, the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling, and the user-selected finger-grip members' **3** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member **2** and any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling, the assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling, and the user-selected finger-grip members' **3** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand **6**; when any user-selected finger-grip member **3** is attached to a back-panel coupling member **2** assembled and installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**, each at least one looped aperture **4** on each user-selected finger-grip member **3** is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially parallel to the substantially planar back surface of the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and the snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5** without a user having to consciously grip the user-selected personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each looped aperture **4** is adapted to receive only one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** on each of the plurality of finger-grip members **3** is defined by a strap of material **4A** that is fixedly coupled at a point along the strap **4A** to the respective finger-grip member **3** substrate; the strap of material **4A** has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side **4A**; and the strap of material **4A** can be made into a variable-sized aperture **4** by detachably coupling a portion of the "loop" part of the strap **4A** to a portion of the "hook" part of the strap **4A**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the kit is adapted for a user to assemble and install a securement apparatus on a plurality of variously sized personal tablet-shaped devices selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the kit is adapted to facilitate the assembly of an apparatus **1** for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device **5** that is at least partially encased within a protective covering. In other variations, the protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone, though other suitable elastic materials can be used.

In still other variations, the matting pieces **2** that comprise the back-panel coupling member **2** are configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device **5** by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

Seventh Embodiment — A Method of Using a Kit for Assembling and Installing an Ergonomic User-Hand-Engagement Apparatus for a Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a method of using a kit for assembling and installing an ergonomic user-hand-engagement apparatus for a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device according to either the first or Second Embodiments, described *supra*, wherein the apparatus is designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto a personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common clipboard — while minimizing the fatigue and

discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a method of using a kit for assembling an apparatus **1** for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device **5**, according to the First Embodiment or the Second Embodiment, described *supra*, in a user's hand **6**. The method comprises the steps of:

- Obtaining a kit according to the Fifth Embodiment, described *supra*;
- Determining the target personal tablet-shaped device **5** to install said securement apparatus **1**;
- Selecting at least one piece of said matting **2** (see **Figure 7**) of compatible size and shape to affix to the back panel of the target personal tablet-shaped device **5**, then affixing said at least one piece of matting **2** to said back panel **5**;
- Selecting at least one finger-grip member **3** (see **Figure 7**) of compatible size for effective detachable coupling to the installed matting **2**, wherein each selected finger-grip member **3** has a user-specified number of finger-receiving apertures **4**; and
- Coupling the at least one finger-grip member **3** to the installed matting **2** at a user-specified orientation relative to the back panel of the target personal tablet-shaped device **5**;

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the steps of:

- Inserting at least one finger of the user's hand **6** into at least one of the user-selected finger-grip members' **3** apertures **4**; and
- Holding the target personal tablet-shaped device **5** without needing to grip the target personal tablet-shaped device **5** using the user's opposing thumb.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the target personal tablet-shaped device **5** is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

Eighth Embodiment — A Securement-Enhanced, Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a securement-enhanced, personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon

Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a securement-enhanced, personal tablet-shaped device **1** in a user's hand **6**, wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** has a substantially planar portion on its back surface. The device **1** comprises:

- a personal tablet-shaped device **5** having a substantially planar portion on its back surface;
- a back-panel coupling member **2** attached to the substantially planar back surface on the personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and
- at least one finger-grip member **3** detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2**, wherein at least one finger-grip member **3** can be detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2** in a user-specified orientation relative to the substantially planar back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at the least one finger-grip member **3** is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device, each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "hook"

part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand **6**; each at least one looped aperture **4** is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially parallel to the substantially planar back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold the personal tablet-shaped device **5** without a user having to consciously grip the personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each looped aperture **4** is adapted to receive only one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger **6**. In a further variation of this, at least one said finger-grip member **3** looped aperture **4** is defined by a strap of material **4A** that is fixedly coupled at a point along the strap **4A** to the finger-grip member **3**; that strap of material **4A** has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and that strap of material **4A** can be made into a variable-sized aperture **4** by detachably coupling a portion of the "loop" part of the strap **4A** to a portion of the "hook" part of the strap **4A**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** is at least partially encased within a protective covering, including the substantially planar portion on the back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**. In other variations,

this protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone, though other suitable elastic materials may be used.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device **5** by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

Ninth Embodiment — A Method of Making a Securement-Enhanced, Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a method of making a securement-enhanced, personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a method of making a securement-enhanced, personal tablet-shaped device **1** in a user's hand **6**, wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** has a substantially planar portion on its back surface. The method comprises the steps of:

- Providing a personal tablet-shaped device **5** having a substantially planar portion on its back surface;
- Providing a back-panel coupling member **2** attached to the substantially planar back surface on the personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and
- Providing at least one finger-grip member **3** detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2**, wherein at least one finger-grip member **3** can be detachably coupled to the back-panel coupling member **2** in a user-specified orientation relative to the substantially planar back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at the least one finger-grip member **3** is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and

magnetic coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device, each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the detachable coupling between the back-panel coupling member **2** and the at least one finger-grip member **3** is a hook-and-loop coupling; the back-panel coupling member's **2** detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and the at least one finger-grip member's **3** detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, which can be various shaped and sized to accommodate the topology of the back panel of the targeted personal tablet-shaped device, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand **6**; each at least one looped aperture **4** is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially parallel to the substantially planar back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**; and said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold the personal tablet-shaped device **5** without a user having to consciously grip the personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each looped aperture **4** is adapted to receive only one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein each at least one finger-grip member **3** has at least one looped aperture **4** adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger **6**. In a further variation of this, at least one said finger-grip member **3** looped aperture **4** is defined by a strap of material **4A** that is fixedly coupled at a point along the strap **4A** to the

finger-grip member **3**; that strap **4A** of material has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and that strap of material **4A** can be made into a variable-sized aperture **4** by detachably coupling a portion of the "loop" part of the strap **4A** to a portion of the "hook" part of the strap **4A**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the at least one looped aperture **4** is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** is at least partially encased within a protective covering, including the substantially planar portion on the back surface of the personal tablet-shaped device **5**. In other variations, this protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone, though other suitable elastic materials may be used.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the back-panel coupling member **2** is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device **5** by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device **5**.

Tenth Embodiment — A Method of Using a Securement-Enhanced, Personal Tablet-Shaped Device

This embodiment is directed generally to a method of using a securement-enhanced, personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device designed to enable a user to easily and securely hold onto the personal, hand-held, tablet-shaped device such as an electronic reader (for example, Amazon Kindle®, Barnes & Noble Nook®, and the Sony eReader®), a tablet computing device (for example the Apple iPad®, Google Android®, and many others in an ever-expanding market), a cellular phone, or even just a common — while minimizing the fatigue and discomfort on the user's hands.

Refer to **Figures 1-7**. The embodiment is directed to a method of using a securement-enhanced, personal tablet-shaped device **1** in a user's hand **6**. The method comprises the steps of:

- Obtaining a personal tablet-shaped device equipped with an apparatus for securely holding the personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand according to the Eighth embodiment, described *supra*;
- Inserting at least one finger of the user's hand **6** into one of said at least one looped apertures **4** disposed within the at least one finger-grip members **3**; and
- Holding the personal tablet-shaped device **5** without needing to grip the personal tablet-shaped device **5** using the user's opposing thumb.

This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising the step of adjusting the placement of the back-panel coupling member **2** according to the user's preference.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the step for inserting at least one finger of the user's hand **6** is applied to the user's right hand, as inserted into a first finger-grip member **3**, and is applied to the user's left hand **6**, as inserted into a second finger-grip member **3**.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the step of, before the inserting step, adjusting the position of at least one finger-grip member **3** on the back-panel coupling member **2** according to the user's preference and comfort.

This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising the step of adjusting the fit of at least one finger-grip member **3** looped aperture **4** over at least one user finger **6**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the personal tablet-shaped device **5** is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

Alternative Embodiments and Other Variations

The various embodiments and variations thereof described herein and/or illustrated in the accompanying Figures are merely exemplary and are not meant to limit the scope of the inventive disclosure. It should be appreciated that numerous variations of the invention have been contemplated as would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art with the benefit of this disclosure.

Hence, those ordinarily skilled in the art will have no difficulty devising myriad obvious variations and improvements to the invention, all of which are intended to be encompassed within the scope of the description and figures herein.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand, said personal tablet-shaped device having a substantially planar portion on its back surface, comprising

a back-panel coupling member configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device; and

at least one finger-grip member configured for detachable coupling to said back-panel coupling member,

wherein said at least one finger-grip member can be detachably coupled to said back-panel coupling member in a user-specified orientation relative to a substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least

one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

said at least one finger-grip member has at least one looped aperture adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand;

each at least one looped aperture is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each said at least one looped aperture is substantially parallel to said substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device; and

said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold said personal tablet-shaped device without a user having to consciously grip said personal tablet-shaped device.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein each said looped aperture is adapted to receive only one user finger.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein each at least one finger-grip member has at least one looped aperture adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:

said at least one said finger-grip member looped aperture is defined by a strap of material that is fixedly coupled at a point along said strap to said finger-grip member;

said strap of material has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and

said strap of material can be made into a variable-sized aperture by detachably coupling a portion of said "loop" part of said strap to a portion of said "hook" part of said strap.

11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said at least one looped aperture is substantially

comprised of an elastic material.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device that is at least partially encased within a protective covering.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said back-panel coupling member is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device.

16. A method of making an apparatus for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand, said personal tablet-shaped device having a substantially planar portion on its back surface, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a back-panel coupling member configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device; and

providing at least one finger-grip member configured for detachable coupling to said back-panel coupling member,

wherein said at least one finger-grip member can be detachably coupled to said back-panel coupling member in a user-specified orientation relative to a substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein:

said at least one finger-grip member has at least one looped aperture adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand;

each at least one looped aperture is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each said at least one looped aperture is substantially parallel to said substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device; and

said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold said personal tablet-shaped device without a user having to consciously grip said personal tablet-shaped device.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein each said looped aperture is adapted to receive only one user finger.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein each at least one finger-grip member has at least one

looped aperture adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein:

said at least one said finger-grip member looped aperture is defined by a strap of material that is fixedly coupled at a point along said strap to said finger-grip member;

said strap of material has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and

said strap of material can be made into a variable-sized aperture by detachably coupling a portion of said "loop" part of said strap to a portion of said "hook" part of said strap.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein said at least one looped aperture is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

27. The method of claim 16, wherein said apparatus is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

28. The method of claim 16, wherein said apparatus is adapted for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device that is at least partially encased within a protective covering.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone.

30. The method of claim 16, wherein said back-panel coupling member is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device.

31. A method of using a personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a personal tablet-shaped device equipped with an apparatus for securely holding said personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand according to claim 7;

inserting at least one finger of the user's hand into one of said at least one looped apertures disposed within said at least one finger-grip members; and

holding said personal tablet-shaped device without needing to grip said personal tablet-

shaped device using the user's opposing thumb.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of adjusting the placement of said back-panel coupling member according to the user's preference.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the step for inserting at least one finger of the user's hand is applied to the user's right hand, as inserted into a first finger-grip member, and is applied to the user's left hand, as inserted into a second finger-grip member.

34. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of, before the inserting step, adjusting the position of said at least one finger-grip member on said back-panel coupling member according to the user's preference and comfort.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein said securing apparatus further incorporates the limitations of claim 9, and further comprising the step of adjusting the fit of at least one finger-grip member looped aperture over at least one user finger.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein said personal tablet-shaped device is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

37. A kit for assembling an apparatus for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand, said personal tablet-shaped device having a substantially planar portion on its back surface, said kit comprising:

a plurality of variously sized and shaped pieces of matting for assembling a back-panel coupling member to be installed on a substantially planar back surface of a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device,

wherein said matting pieces have a first side that can be adhesively attached to said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device,

wherein said matting pieces have a second side adapted to be detachably coupled to at least one finger-grip member, and

wherein the diversity of said variously sized and shaped pieces of matting is such that a subset of said pieces of matting can be assembled and installed on said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped

device by a user to provide an effective coupling surface for said at least one finger-grip member; and

a plurality of finger-grip members adapted to be detachably coupled to a back-panel coupling member installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device,

wherein said plurality of finger-grip members are provided in various sizes to facilitate a user's ability to select one or more properly sized finger-grip members for attachment to said back-panel coupling member, and

wherein each of said plurality of finger-grip members is adapted to be detachably coupled to said back-panel coupling member in a user-specified orientation relative to said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device.

38. The kit of claim 37, wherein said detachable coupling between said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member and any user-selected finger-grip member is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

39. The kit of claim 38, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member and any user-selected finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said user-selected finger-grip members' detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

40. The kit of claim 38, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member and any user-selected finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said user-selected finger-grip members' detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

41. The kit of claim 37, wherein:

each of said plurality of finger-grip members has at least one looped aperture adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand;

when any user-selected finger-grip member is attached to a back-panel coupling member assembled and installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device, each at least one looped aperture on each said user-selected finger-grip member is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each said at least one looped aperture is substantially parallel to said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device; and

said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device without a user having to consciously grip said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device.

42. The kit of claim 41, wherein each said looped aperture is adapted to receive only one user finger.

43. The kit of claim 41, wherein each of said plurality of finger-grip members has at least one looped aperture adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger.

44. The kit of claim 43, wherein:

said at least one looped aperture on each of said plurality of finger-grip members is defined by a strap of material that is fixedly coupled at a point along said strap to said respective finger-grip member;

said strap of material has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and

said strap of material can be made into a variable-sized aperture by detachably coupling a portion of said "loop" part of said strap to a portion of said "hook" part of said strap.

45. The kit of claim 43, wherein said at least one looped aperture is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

46. The kit of claim 37, wherein said kit is adapted for a user to assemble and install a securement apparatus on a plurality of variously sized personal tablet-shaped devices selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers,

personal data assistants, and clipboards.

47. The kit of claim 37, wherein said kit is adapted to facilitate the assembly of an apparatus for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device that is at least partially encased within a protective covering.

48. The kit of claim 47, wherein said protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone.

49. The kit of claim 37, wherein matting pieces that comprise said back-panel coupling member are configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device.

50. A method of making a kit for assembling an apparatus for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand, said personal tablet-shaped device having a substantially planar portion on its back surface, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of variously sized and shaped pieces of matting for assembling a back-panel coupling member to be installed on a substantially planar back surface of a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device,

wherein said matting pieces have a first side that can be adhesively attached to said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device, and

wherein said matting pieces have a second side adapted to be detachably coupled to at least one finger-grip member, and

wherein the diversity of said variously sized and shaped pieces of matting is such that a subset of said pieces of matting can be assembled and installed on said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device by a user to provide an effective coupling surface for said at least one finger-grip member; and

providing a plurality of finger-grip members adapted to be detachably coupled to a back-panel coupling member installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device,

wherein said plurality of finger-grip members are provided in various sizes to facilitate a user's ability to select one or more properly sized finger-grip members

for attachment to said back-panel coupling member, and

wherein each of said plurality of finger-grip members is adapted to be detachably coupled to said back-panel coupling member in a user-specified orientation relative to said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein said detachable coupling between said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member and any user-selected finger-grip member is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member and any user-selected finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said user-selected finger-grip members' detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

53. The method of claim 51, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member and any user-selected finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said assembled and installed back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said user-selected finger-grip members' detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

54. The method of claim 50, wherein:

each of said plurality of finger-grip members has at least one looped aperture adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand;

when any user-selected finger-grip member is attached to a back-panel coupling member assembled and installed on a user-selected personal tablet-shaped device, each at least one looped aperture on each said user-selected finger-grip member is oriented

such that the longitudinal axis of each said at least one looped aperture is substantially parallel to said substantially planar back surface of said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device; and

said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device without a user having to consciously grip said user-selected personal tablet-shaped device.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein each said looped aperture is adapted to receive only one user finger.

56. The method of claim 54, wherein each of said plurality of finger-grip members has at least one looped aperture adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein:

said at least one looped aperture on each of said plurality of finger-grip members is defined by a strap of material that is fixedly coupled at a point along said strap to said respective finger-grip member;

said strap of material has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and

said strap of material can be made into a variable-sized aperture by detachably coupling a portion of said "loop" part of said strap to a portion of said "hook" part of said strap.

58. The method of claim 56, wherein said at least one looped aperture is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

59. The method of claim 50, wherein said kit is adapted for a user to assemble and install a securement apparatus on a plurality of variously sized personal tablet-shaped devices selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

60. The method of claim 50, wherein said kit is adapted to facilitate the assembly of an apparatus for a user to hold a personal tablet-shaped device that is at least partially encased within a protective covering.

61. The method of claim 60, wherein said protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone.

62. The method of claim 50, wherein matting pieces that comprise said back-panel coupling member are configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device.

63. A method of using a kit for assembling an apparatus for securely holding a personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a kit according to claim 41;

determining the target personal tablet-shaped device to install said securement apparatus;

selecting at least one piece of said matting of compatible size and shape to affix to the back panel of said target personal tablet-shaped device, then affixing said at least one piece of matting to said back panel;

selecting at least one finger-grip member of compatible size for effective detachable coupling to said installed matting,

wherein each selected finger-grip member has a user-specified number of finger-receiving apertures;

coupling said at least one finger-grip member to said installed matting at a user-specified orientation relative to the back panel of said target personal tablet-shaped device;

inserting at least one finger of the user's hand into at least one said user-selected finger-grip members' apertures; and

holding said target personal tablet-shaped device without needing to grip said target personal tablet-shaped device using the user's opposing thumb.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein said target personal tablet-shaped device is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

65. A securement-enhanced, personal tablet-shaped device, comprising

a personal tablet-shaped device having a substantially planar portion on its back surface;

a back-panel coupling member attached to said substantially planar back surface on said personal tablet-shaped device; and

at least one finger-grip member detachably coupled to said back-panel coupling member,

wherein said at least one finger-grip member can be detachably coupled to said back-panel coupling member in a user-specified orientation relative to said substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device.

66. The device of claim 65, wherein said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

67. The device of claim 66, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

68. The device of claim 67, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

69. The device of claim 66, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

70. The device of claim 69, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a

plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

71. The device of claim 65, wherein:

said at least one finger-grip member has at least one looped aperture adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand;

each at least one looped aperture is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each said at least one looped aperture is substantially parallel to said substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device; and

said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold said personal tablet-shaped device without a user having to consciously grip said personal tablet-shaped device.

72. The device of claim 71, wherein each said looped aperture is adapted to receive only one user finger.

73. The device of claim 71, wherein each at least one finger-grip member has at least one looped aperture adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger.

74. The device of claim 73, wherein:

said at least one said finger-grip member looped aperture is defined by a strap of material that is fixedly coupled at a point along said strap to said finger-grip member;

said strap of material has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and

said strap of material can be made into a variable-sized aperture by detachably coupling a portion of said "loop" part of said strap to a portion of said "hook" part of said strap.

75. The device of claim 71, wherein said at least one looped aperture is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

76. The device of claim 75, wherein said personal tablet-shaped device is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

77. The device of claim 65, wherein said personal tablet-shaped device is at least partially encased within a protective covering, including said substantially planar portion on the

back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device.

78. The device of claim 77, wherein said protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone.

79. The device of claim 65, wherein said back-panel coupling member is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device.

80. A method of making a securement-enhanced, personal tablet-shaped device, comprising:

providing a personal tablet-shaped device having a substantially planar portion on its back surface;

providing a back-panel coupling member configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on said personal tablet-shaped device; and

providing at least one finger-grip member configured for detachable coupling to said back-panel coupling member,

wherein said at least one finger-grip member can be detachably coupled to said back-panel coupling member in a user-specified orientation relative to a substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device.

81. The method of claim 80, wherein said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is selected from the group consisting of hook-and-loop coupling, mechanical-snap coupling, and magnetic coupling.

82. The method of claim 81, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

83. The method of claim 82, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

84. The method of claim 81, wherein:

said detachable coupling between said back-panel coupling member and said at least one finger-grip member is a hook-and-loop coupling;

said back-panel coupling member's detachable coupling surface is the "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling; and

said at least one finger-grip member's detachable coupling surface is the "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

85. The method of claim 84, wherein said back-panel coupling member is comprised of a plurality of pieces of matting, each piece of which can act as a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling.

86. The method of claim 80, wherein:

said at least one finger-grip member has at least one looped aperture adapted to snuggly engage one or more user fingers on a user hand;

each at least one looped aperture is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of each said at least one looped aperture is substantially parallel to said substantially planar back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device; and

said snuggly engagement allows a user to securely hold said personal tablet-shaped device without a user having to consciously grip said personal tablet-shaped device.

87. The method of claim 86, wherein each said looped aperture is adapted to receive only one user finger.

88. The method of claim 86, wherein each at least one finger-grip member has at least one looped aperture adapted to be adjustably fitted to a user finger.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein:

said at least one said finger-grip member looped aperture is defined by a strap of material that is fixedly coupled at a point along said strap to said finger-grip member;

said strap of material has a "hook" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on one side, and has a "loop" part of a hook-and-loop coupling on the other side; and

said strap of material can be made into a variable-sized aperture by detachably coupling a portion of said "loop" part of said strap to a portion of said "hook" part of said strap.

90. The method of claim 86, wherein said at least one looped aperture is substantially comprised of an elastic material.

91. The method of claim 80, wherein said personal tablet-shaped device is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

92. The method of claim 80, wherein said personal tablet-shaped device is at least partially encased within a protective covering, including said substantially planar portion on the back surface of said personal tablet-shaped device.

93. The method of claim 92, wherein said protective covering is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and silicone.

94. The method of claim 80, wherein said back-panel coupling member is configured for attachment to a substantially planar back surface on a personal tablet-shaped device by being incorporated into the structure of a protective covering that is adapted to substantially encase a personal tablet-shaped device.

95. A method of using a securement-enhanced, personal tablet-shaped device, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a personal tablet-shaped device equipped with an apparatus for securely holding said personal tablet-shaped device in a user's hand according to claim 53;

inserting at least one finger of the user's hand into one of said at least one looped apertures disposed within said at least one finger-grip members; and

holding said personal tablet-shaped device without needing to grip said personal tablet-shaped device using the user's opposing thumb.

96. The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of adjusting the placement of said back-panel coupling member according to the user's preference.

97. The method of claim 95, wherein the step for inserting at least one finger of the user's hand is applied to the user's right hand, as inserted into a first finger-grip member, and is applied to the user's left hand, as inserted into a second finger-grip member.

98. The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of, before the inserting step, adjusting the position of said at least one finger-grip member on said back-panel coupling member according to the user's preference and comfort.

99. The method of claim 95, wherein said securing apparatus further incorporates the limitations of claim 73, and further comprising the step of adjusting the fit of at least one finger-grip member looped aperture over at least one user finger.

100. The method of claim 95, wherein said personal tablet-shaped device is selected from the group consisting of e-readers, cellular phones, tablet computers, personal data assistants, and clipboards.

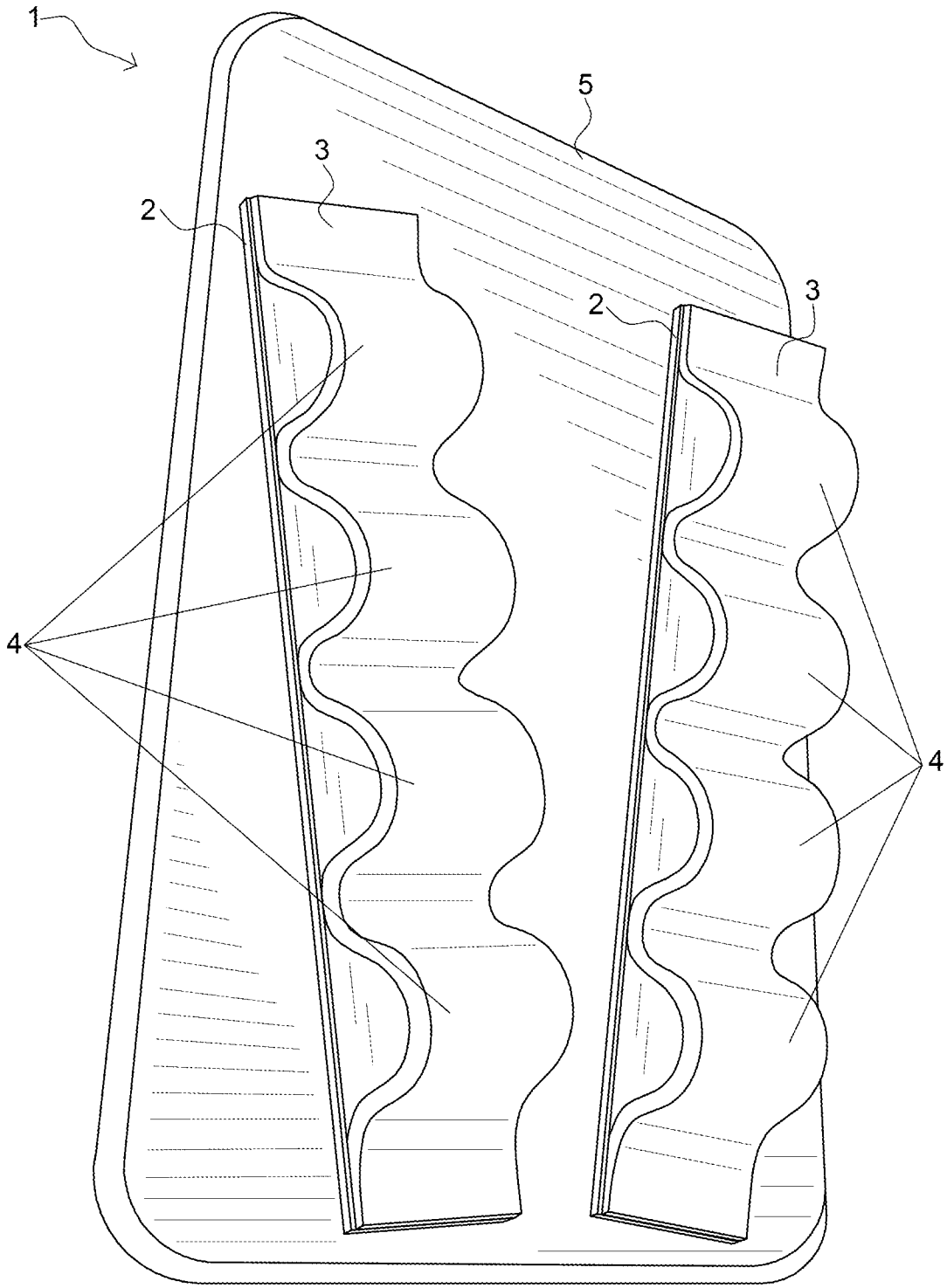


FIG. 1

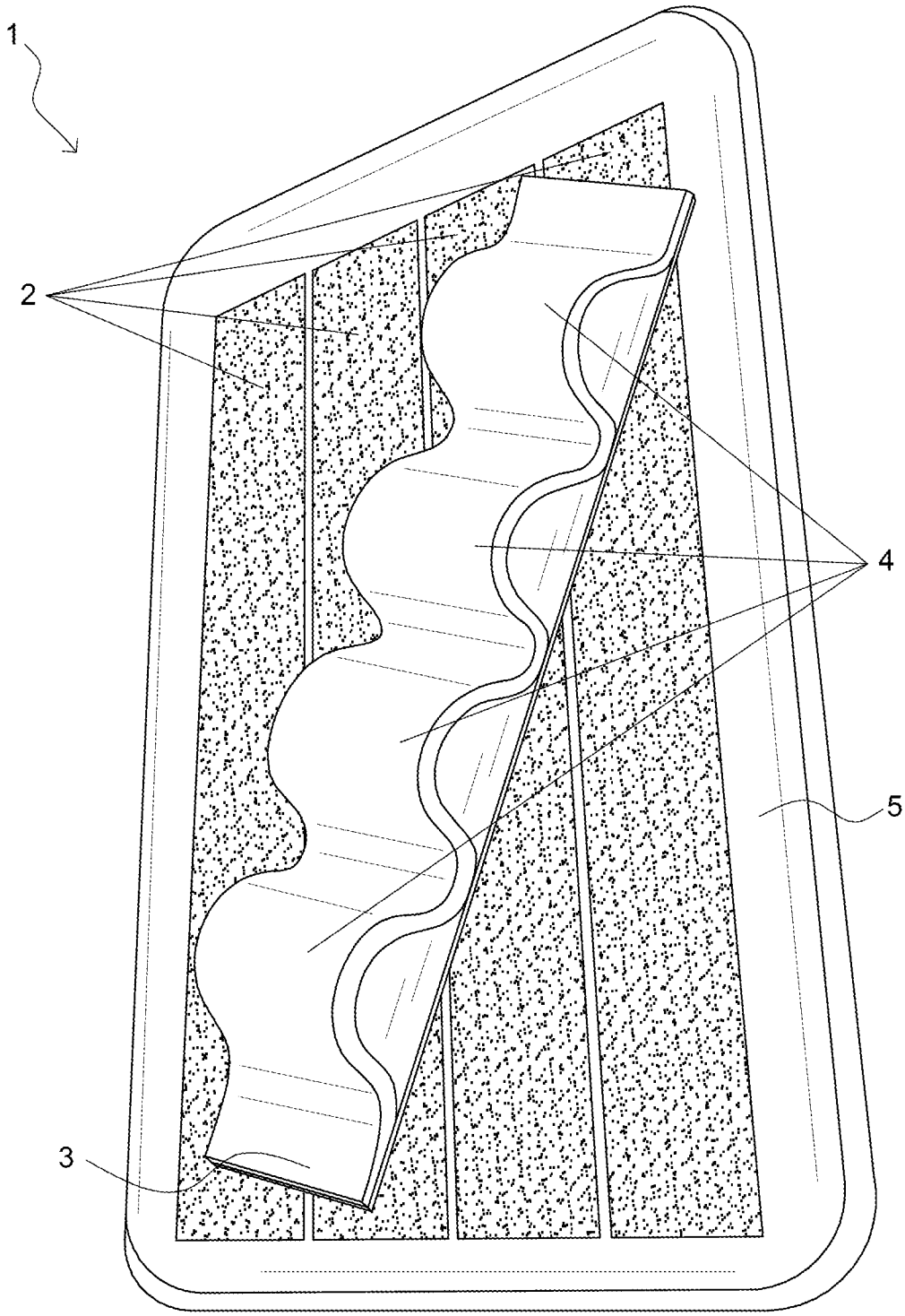


FIG. 2

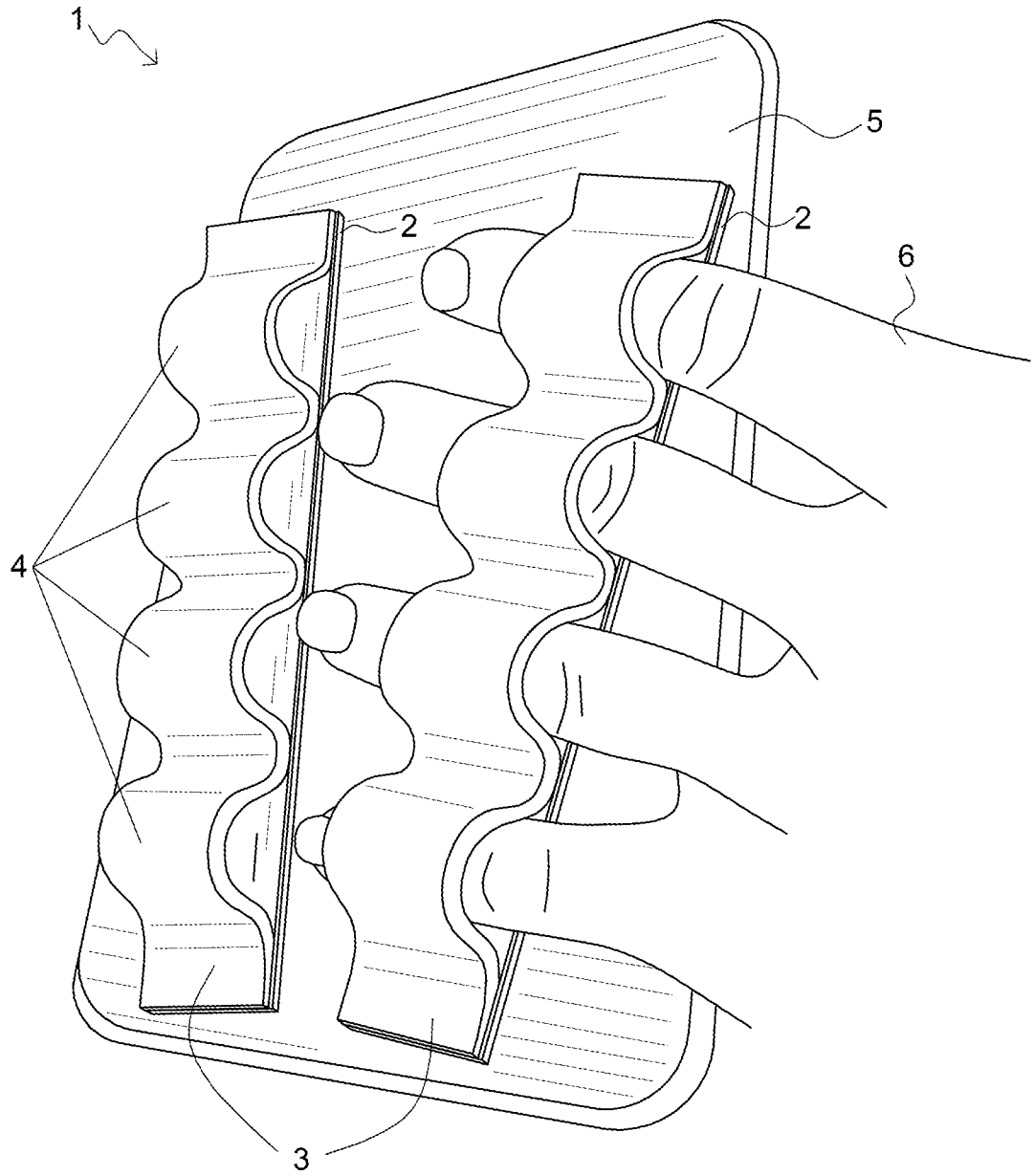


FIG. 3

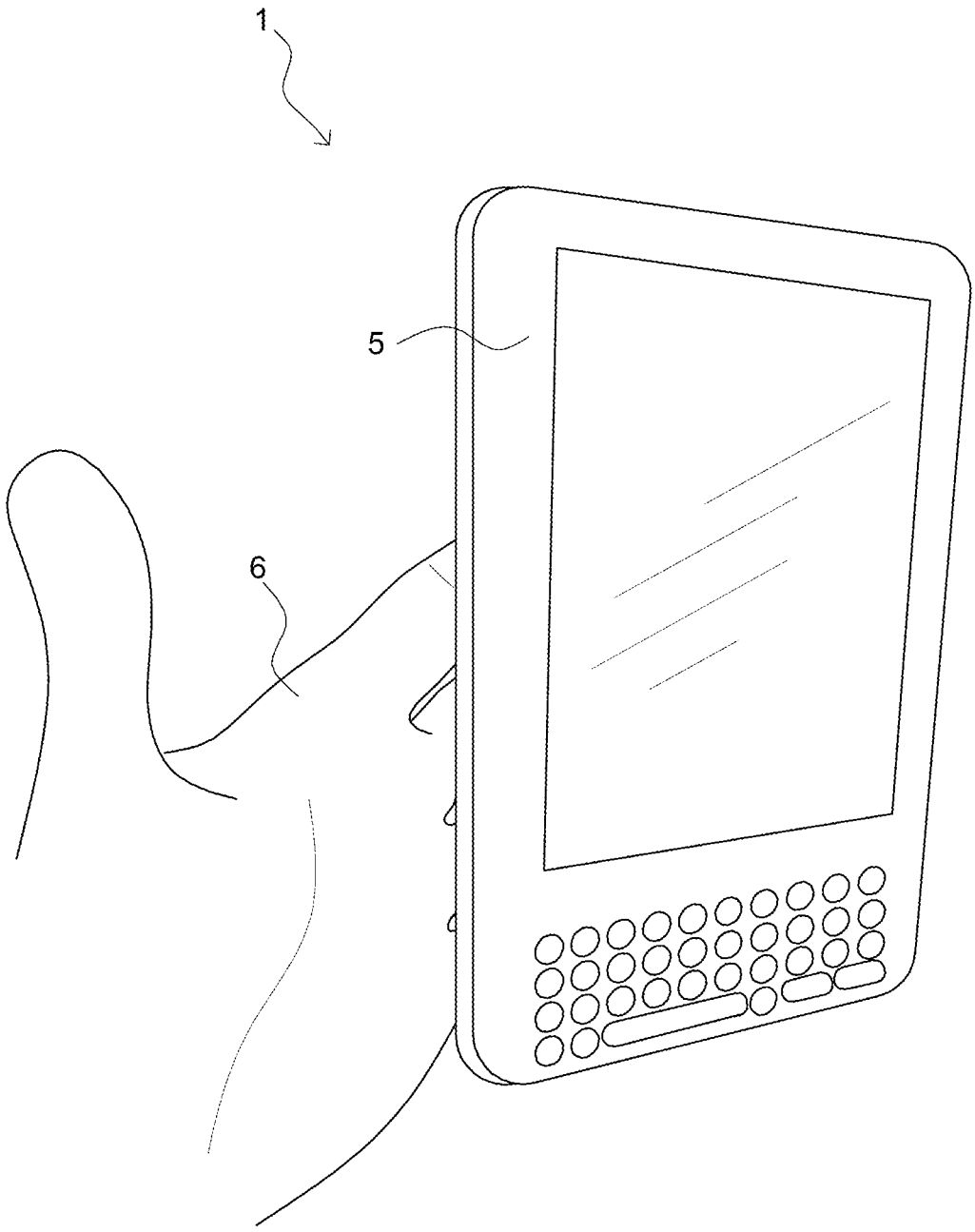


FIG. 4

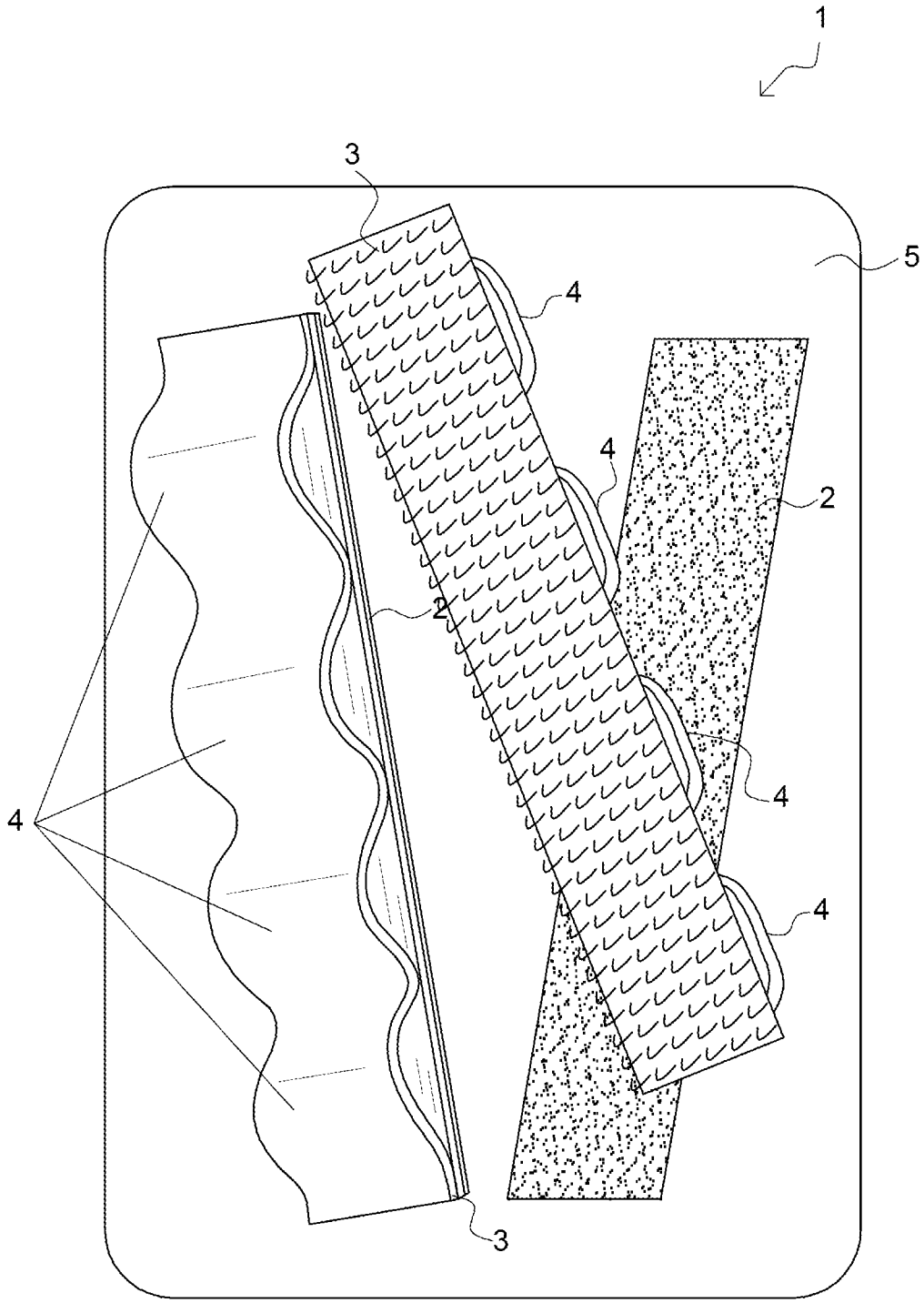


FIG. 5

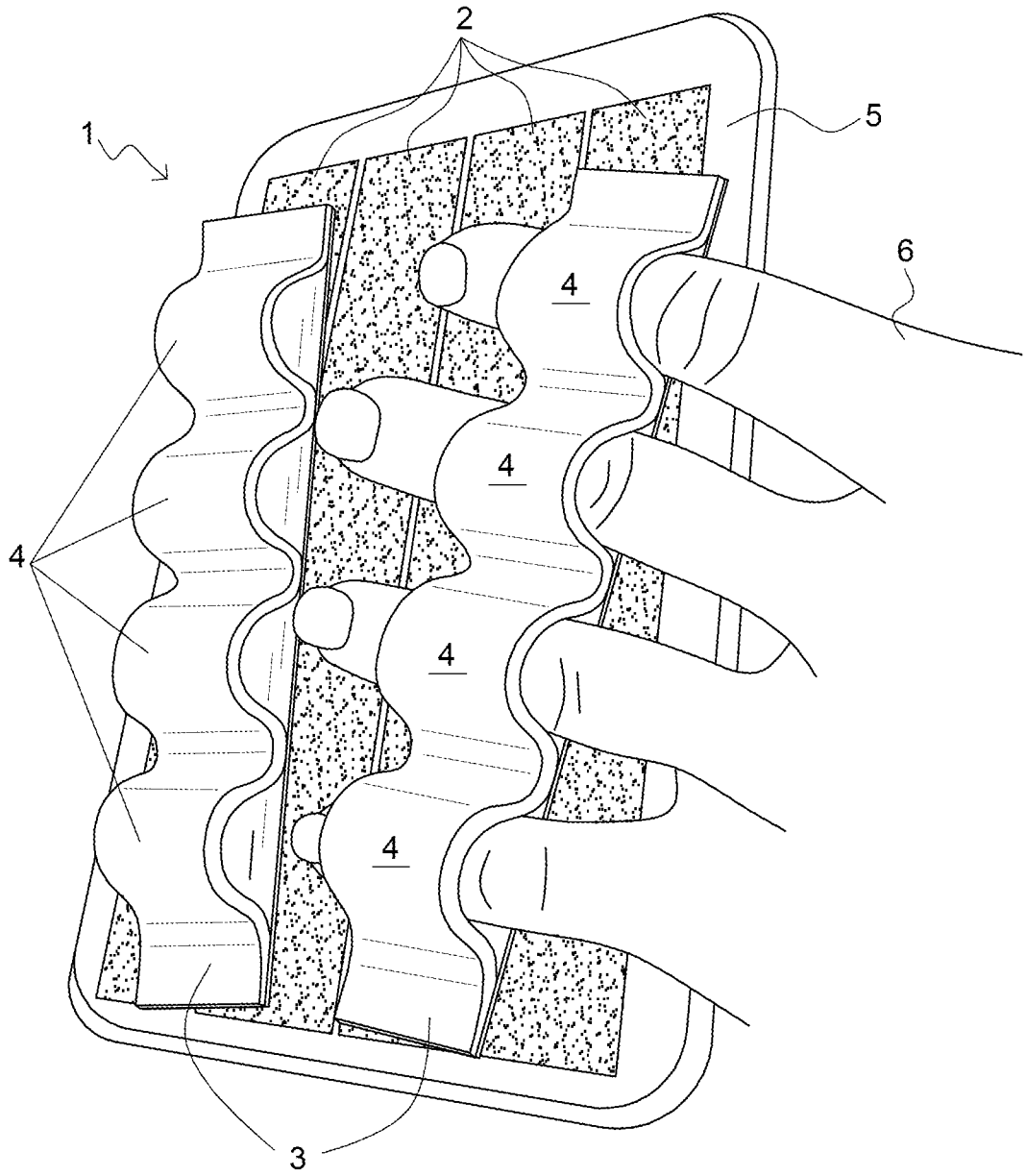


FIG. 6

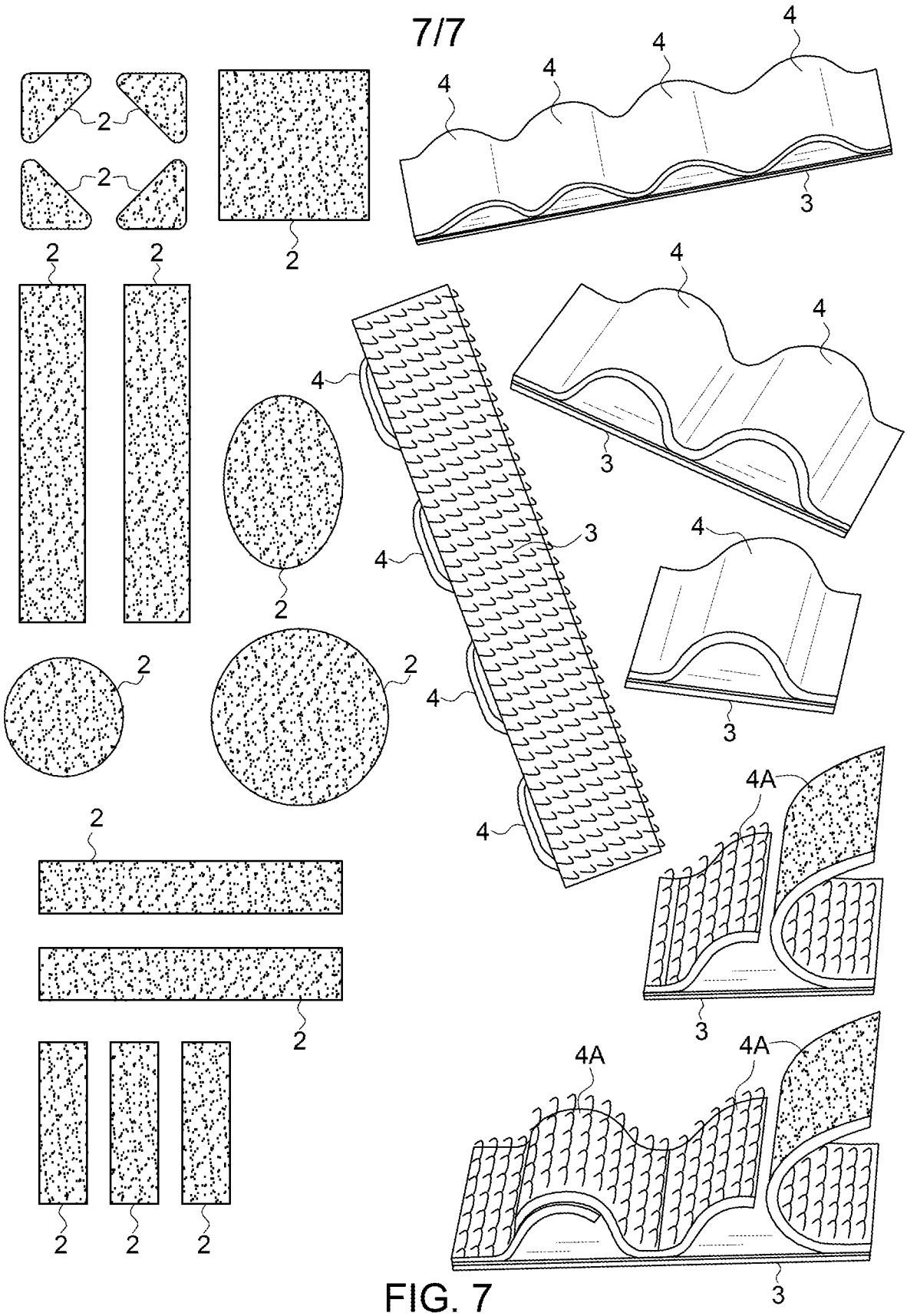


FIG. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2011/027742

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

G06F 1/16(2006.01)i

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G06F 1/16; H04M 1/02; A45C 11/00; H05K 7/00; H05K 5/00; A45F 3/14

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: "electronic, computer, grip, strap, holding"

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2009-0219677 A1 (TAKESHI MORI et al.) 03 September 2009 See the abstract, figures 1-10, and paragraphs [0036]-[0073].	1-100
A	US 2010-0296235 A1 (HIROFUMI TAKEMASA et al.) 25 November 2010 See the abstract, figures 1-5, and paragraphs [0051]-[0095].	1-100
A	JP 2010-171731 A (KYOCERA CO.) 05 August 2010 See the abstract, figures 4-11, and paragraphs [0017]-[0061].	1-100
A	JP 2002-199070 A (NAKAI YOSHINOBU) 12 July 2002 See the abstract, figures 1-24, and paragraphs [0016]-[0084].	1-100

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents,such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
14 NOVEMBER 2011 (14.11.2011)	**18 NOVEMBER 2011 (18.11.2011)**

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Telephone No. 82-42-481-5768

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2011/027742

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US 2010-0296235 A1	25.11.2010	EP 2244155 A1	27.10.2010
		JP 4687821 B2	25.05.2011
		WO 2009-101800 A1	20.08.2009
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JP 2002-199070 A	12.07.2002	None	