Feb. 20, 1968 R. T. SAARI ET AL 3,369,723

BOTTLE AND FLASHLIGHT HOLDER AND CARRIER

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Fig. 1

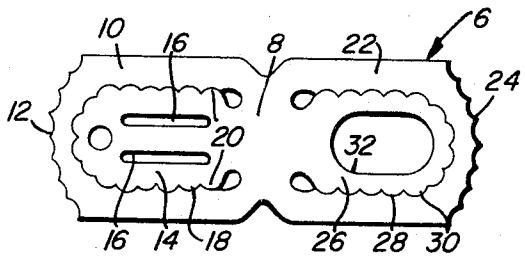



Fig. 2

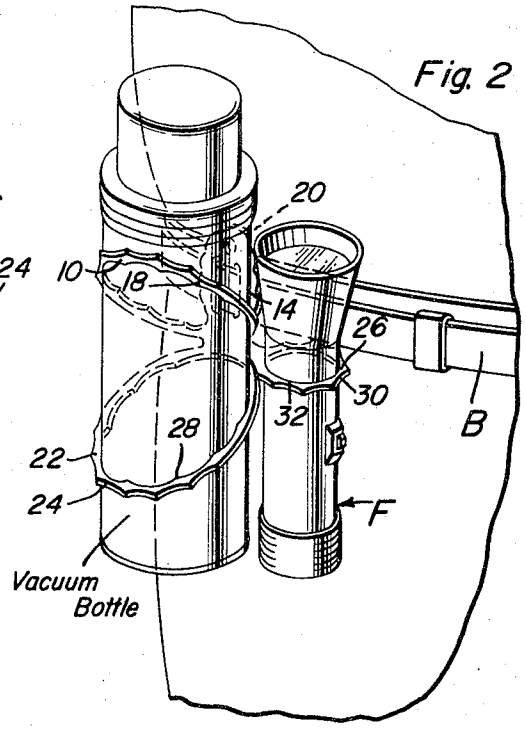
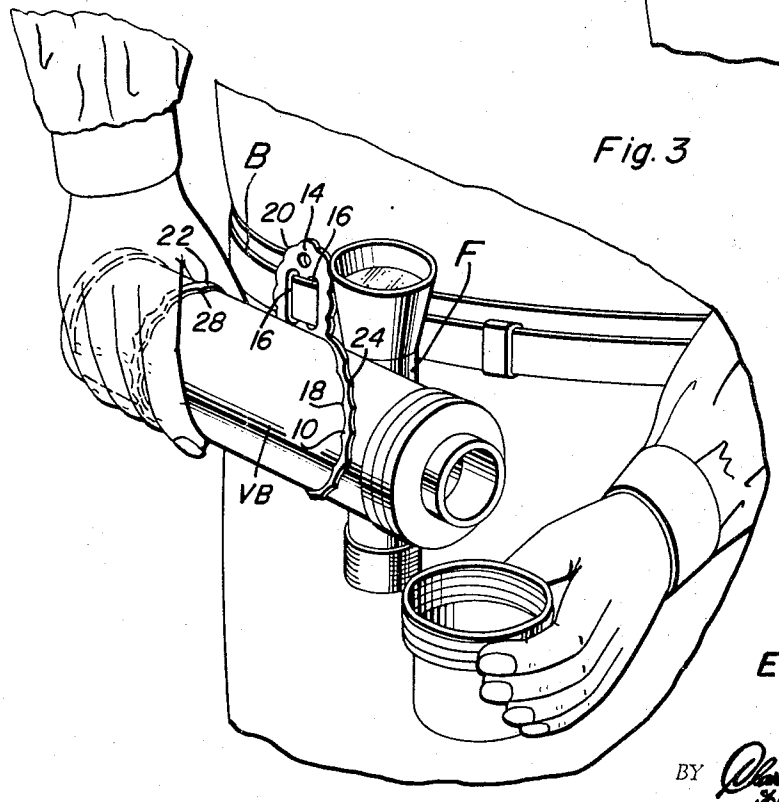



Fig. 3

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# BOTTLE AND FLASHLIGHT HOLDER AND CARRIER

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The holder and carrier shown lends itself to use while hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and for numerous outdoor purposes. It is preferably, but not necessarily, molded from a tough, weather-resistant grade of rubber. The end product comprises a specially delineated blank embodying a first elongated bottle-embracing collar, a flap coplanar with and encircled by said collar, said flap having a belt loop, a second bottle embracing elongated collar, and a second cap coplanar with and surrounded by said second collar, said collars and flaps having inner end portions and said inner end portions being joined together by an intervening connective web.

The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in an article holder and carrier which is expressly designed and adapted to enable a user thereof to readily and reliably attach the same directly to his trousers supporting belt and which embodies self-contained component parts which function to effectually embrace and support the articles which are to be transported.

There has long existed a need for a simple, practical and feasible small article holder and carrier which lends itself to acceptable adoption and use by reason of the fact that it can be attached to the user's person and embodies encircling, holding and carrying means for miscellaneous articles, tools and accessories. Although the invention is ideal for use while hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and for similar outdoors sports, it is also desirable and novel in that it is capable of satisfactory and convenient use by policemen, firemen, mechanics, and electricians who in handling work requirements must have quick access to available handtools such as hatchets, hammers, rulers and the like.

With the preceding general explanation serving as background information and comprehending the scope of the objectives it may now be stated, somewhat more explicitly, that the field of invention primarily involved is that which has to do with hunting, fishing and trapping where for example the hunter, fisherman or trapper has frequent need for a vacuum bottle, flashlight or like accessory or article. Although it is within the scope of the inventive concept to so construct the holder and carrier that it is capable of attachment to and suspension from a shoulder sling, a strap-type body harness, lanyard or equivalent supporting and transporting means, it is expressly designed and adapted for slidable and detachable direct supporting connection with the trousers supporting belt of the user.

In carrying out a preferred embodiment of the invention a simple and economical flat-faced elongated blank of sheet material is utilized. More explicitly, but not necessarily, the blank or sheet of material which has been successfully appropriated and used has been, and still is, a special durometer black all-weather resistant rubber. The blank herein shown and described and which has been experimentally found to provide the end product and improved results desired, embodies the rubbery, tear-



resistant, flexible and physical properties desired and is characterized, generally construed, by a self-attaching and position-retaining component usually connectible with the aforementioned trousers belt, and complemental plural article gripping suspending and transporting components which are predominant in that they aptly encircle and grippingly hold and store the aforementioned vacuum bottle and flashlight whereby to render the same readily accessible for use.

More explicitly the blank in its initial manufactured state is generally elongated in plan, flat-faced and has a central web which provides a common connector for the left and right half portions. One half portion, say the one to the left, is stamped or otherwise constructed to provide an elongated flap with slots for the attachment to the aforementioned belt and an encompassing, encircling and holding collar. This collar cooperates with a similar collar at the right which likewise encompasses or surrounds a second flap similar to the first-named flap. However, this second flap is centrally apertured and functions to provide an encircling holder and carrier for the flashlight.

To the specific ends desired the left and right article encircling members of collars (FIG. 1) provide the desired means for collaring and carrying the vacuum bottle and permit it to be bodily swung from a normal vertical carrying position to a generally horizontal but downwardly inclined position so that its contents can be poured into a cup if desired. And also because of the aforementioned common connecting web between the component parts the flashlight encircling holder can be twisted and positioned so that the flashlight is carried and stored in a ready-to-use position close to but not interfering with the vertically supported vacuum bottle.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a view on a relatively small scale showing the rubber, plastic or equivalent elastic sheet or blank embodying the aforementioned left and right encircling collars and integral left and right companion flaps.

FIG. 2 is a view in perspective showing the manner in which the slotted flap at the left in FIG. 1 is attached to the wearer's belt and the two collars (left and right) are caused to encircle and support a vacuum bottle and the encircling flap at the right is twisted and positioned to come into play in supporting the flashlight.

FIG. 3 is a view in perspective based on FIG. 2 and whose purpose is to show how the elasticity and deformation of the component parts cooperate in enabling the user to supportively tilt the vacuum bottle for convenient use.

Referring now to the views of the drawing, attention is first directed to FIG. 1. The aforementioned flat-faced elongated rubbery or equivalent elastic sheet is denoted by the numeral **6** and is conveniently referred to as a prefabricated or cut out blank. The central or body portion constitutes an imperforate web **8** which orients and joins the component parts to the right and left thereof. One part constitutes an elongated encircling and suspending loop or collar **10** whose free outer end **12** is serrated and suitably shaped for anti-slipping and handling purposes. A first flap to the left, the one denoted at **14** is provided with a pair of suitably coordinated spaced parallel slots **16** which serve to permit the passage therethrough of the body encircling belt B in the manner shown in FIG. 3, that is when the flap **14** comes into use. It should be noted that the mating marginal edges

of the flap and collar **10**, respectively, are serrated as at **18** and **20**. The corresponding and companion encircling loop or collar **22** at the right likewise has a serrated terminal end **24** with anti-slipping elements embodied therein. The right hand flap is denoted at **26** and the coacting or mating edges **28** and **30**, respectively, are again serrated and the serrations serve in the manner shown best in FIGS. 2 and 3. This flap **26** is also provided with an elongated slot or opening which is capable of surrounding and retentively gripping the flashlight. The flashlight is denoted at F and the vacuum bottle at VB. The flashlight and vacuum bottle are conventional and, as stated, while the invention lends itself to attaching and supporting and carrying articles other than a flashlight and vacuum bottle, it simplifies the disclosure to assume here that the articles which are under consideration are represented as a vacuum bottle and flashlight respectively.

In practice it will be evident that the flap **14** is arranged so that the belt B is threaded therethrough in the manner shown whereby to thus attach the overall holder and carrier to the user's belt. Once the device is thus attached both collars **10** and **22** respectively can be stretched, deformed and caused to snugly surround and bind themselves around longitudinally spaced portions of the vacuum bottle to support it in a normal position as illustrated in FIG. 2. The flap **26** is twisted to one side in the manner brought out in FIG. 2 and the opening means thereof surrounds the flashlight and consequently supports the flashlight in an accessible or usable position.

It will also be evident from the views of the drawing and particularly by comparing FIG. 2 with FIG. 3 that the elastic properties which are inherent in the components of the overall blank make it possible to bodily swing the vacuum bottle from the vertical position to the horizontal and downwardly inclined position shown in FIG. 3 to facilitate pouring the liquid contents from the bottle into the customary screw-cup or cup in the manner illustrated.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

**1.** An article holder and carrier of the class described comprising a first component part which is designed and adapted to be detachably and adjustably mounted on support means, for example, a body encircling belt, additional components integral with said first-named component and capable of attachment to and for supporting and carrying a vacuum bottle or the like, and a complemental component designed and adapted to embrace and to support a second article, a flashlight, for example, in an out-of-the-way stored but ready-to-use position, and wherein said holder and carrier is characterized by an elongated flat-faced elastic blank having a median web portion, a first flap joined to a left hand side of said web portion and surrounded by a relatively movable collar-like holder, and a second flap integral with and to the right of said web and surrounding by an elongated collar-like holder.

**2.** The structure defined in and according to claim **1** and wherein said first flap is capable of being detachably and adjustably joined with a wearer's belt, the same being provided with spaced parallel slots defining and providing a belt loop, said second flap being centrally apertured and providing an elastic collar, said collar being adapted to encircle and yieldingly and retentively grip a flashlight.

**3.** A bottle and flashlight holder and carrier of the class described comprising an elongated flat-faced blank of rubber possessed of the elasticity and deformation properties necessary for flexibility, resilience and wear-and-tear resistance and embodying a first elongated bottle embracing collar, a flap coplanar with and encircled by said collar, said flap having a belt loop, a second bottle embracing elongated collar, and a second flap coplanar with and surrounded by said second collar, said collars and flaps having inner corresponding and adjacent ends joined together by an intervening coplanar oriented imperforate flexible and twistable connective web.

**4.** A body supported holder and carrier for (1) a vacuum bottle and (2) flashlight comprising: an elongated flexible blank made of tough weather-resistant elastic material provided midway between opposite end portions with a bendably resilient web, provided on one side of said web with a first flap having means temporarily and detachably connectible with the user's trousers supporting belt, said flap being marginally encompassed by a complemental normally coplanar but relatively movable first collar structurally adapted to snugly embrace a predetermined portion of said vacuum bottle, provided on an opposite side of said web with a second flap marginally encompassed by a normally coplanar complemental second collar cooperable with said first collar and likewise structurally adapted to snugly embrace a predetermined portion of said vacuum bottle, the respective inner adjacent end portions of said flaps and collars, respectively, being integrally flexibly joined to said web.

**5.** The holder and carrier defined in and according to claim **4**, and wherein said first flap has a pair of spaced parallel slots cooperating in providing a belt loop, said second flap having a centralized opening and providing an auxiliary collar designed and adapted to encircle and yieldingly grip and support a readily applicable and removable flashlight.

**6.** The holder and carrier defined in and according to claim **5**, and wherein certain marginal edge portions of said flaps and collars, respectively, are serrated and wherein the serrations provide selectively usable anti-slipping handling elements.

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