Title: SLEEPING BAG WITH BUILT-IN STUFF SACK

Abstract: A sleeping bag (10) having a built-in stuff sack (30) which allows for quick and convenient storage of the bag after use. In addition, since the built-in stuff sack (30) is connected to the sleeping bag (10), it will not be misplaced or lost.
SLEEPING BAG WITH BUILT-IN STUFF SACK

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to portable bedding, and specifically to a sleeping bag having a built-in stuff sack allowing the user to quickly and easily store the sleeping bag after use.

Background Information

Portable bedding such as sleeping bags can be unwieldy, making it time-consuming for the user to fold and store the sleeping bag after use. Typically, a sleeping bag for outdoor or other use must be carefully folded and rolled into a compact bedroll prior to storage. To achieve a tightly rolled, compact bedroll requires considerable time and effort. Further, it is particularly difficult for children to produce a satisfactory bedroll because they lack the strength and patience required to fold and roll a sleeping bag. Many sleeping bags come with a separate sack in which to place the folded and rolled sleeping bag before storage. However, even when the sleeping bag is rolled into a compact shape it is oftentimes difficult to place the bag into the separate storage sack. In addition, such storage sacks can be misplaced quite easily.

Drawings

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a sleeping bag in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, illustrating an unrolled sleeping bag with its built-in stuff sack.
FIG. 2 illustrates a sleeping bag in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention that is partially contained within its built-in stuff sack.

FIG. 3A illustrates the sleeping bag of FIG 2 contained entirely within its built-in stuff sack.

FIG. 3B illustrates the sleeping bag of FIG 3A entirely contained within its built-in stuff sack with the drawcord of the built-in stuff sack drawn tight.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a sleeping bag having a built-in stuff sack. The built-in stuff sack allows the sleeping bag to be easily and conveniently stored after use. The stuff sack may have drawcords to close or partially close its opening once the sleeping bag is within the stuff sack. In addition, since the built-in stuff sack can be connected to the sleeping bag, it will not be misplaced or lost.

Detailed Description of the Invention

As shown in FIG. 1, a sleeping bag (10) according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention has a conventional upper sleeping portion (20) which is attached to a lower portion or stuff sack (30). The upper sleeping portion (20) has, for example, an open upper end (22) and a closed lower end (24). The lower portion or stuff sack (30) has a closed end (34) and an open end (32). The closed end (34) of the lower portion or stuff sack (30) is, for example, adjacent to the closed lower end (24) of the upper portion (20).
The lower portion or stuff sack (30) may have a drawcord (36) which can narrow the opening of the open end (32). The drawcord (36) is preferably near to and surrounds the periphery of the open end (32) of the lower portion or stuff sack (30).

As shown in FIG. 2, the edges surrounding the open end (32) of the lower portion or stuff sack (30) may be pulled up and over the closed lower end (24) of the upper portion (20). The upper portion (20) may be pushed inside the lower portion or stuff sack (30).

As shown in FIG. 3A, the upper portion (20) may be pushed into the lower portion or stuff sack (30) until the upper portion (20) is contained entirely within the lower portion or stuff sack (30).

As shown in FIG. 3B, once the upper portion is contained entirely within the lower portion or stuff sack (30), a drawcord (36) may be pulled to narrow its open end (32). The lower portion or stuff sack (30) also may have a carrying strap (38).

In operation, one uses the sleeping bag in a normal manner with the lower portion or stuff sack (30) attached to but, for example, extending away from the upper sleeping portion (20). The closed end of the upper sleeping portion (20) may be the same structure as the closed end of the lower portion or stuff sack (30). In other words, the closed end may comprise a single barrier between the hollow interior portions of the upper sleeping portion (20) and the stuff sack (30).

Alternatively, the closed lower end (24) of the upper sleeping portion (20) and the closed end (34) of the lower portion or stuff sack (30) may be separate structures. In this later case, these separate structures will preferably be located
close to each other. Once the sleeping bag user is ready to store the bag, the edges surrounding the open end of the lower portion or stuff sack (30) may be pulled up and over the closed lower end (24) of the upper portion (20). The sleeping bag user may then use one hand to push the upper portion (20) inside the lower portion or stuff sack (30) while holding the lower portion or stuff sack (30) with the other hand. The sleeping bag user at the same time may pull the lower portion or stuff sack (30) over the upper portion (20). The upper portion (20) may be pushed into the lower portion or stuff sack (30) until the upper portion (20) is contained entirely within the lower portion or stuff sack (30). Once the upper portion (20) is contained entirely within the lower portion or stuff sack (30), a drawcord (36) may be pulled to narrow its open end (32).

A sleeping bag (10) according to an embodiment of the present invention can be produced simply and economically. As noted above, the upper portion (20) may be any conventional sleeping bag made from any standard material. A sleeping bag (10) according to an embodiment of the present invention may be primarily for indoor or outdoor use, and may be insulated. An insulated sleeping bag (10) may comprise two or more layers with insulation between these layers. The insulating material may be, for example, polyester fiber. Other insulating materials may include, for example, down. The insulating material may be quilted to one or both outer layers to hold the material in place throughout the life of the product. A zipper may be attached to the sleeping bag (10) to allow the user access to the interior portion of the sleeping bag (10) and to allow closure of the bag (10) after use.

The lower portion or stuff sack (30) may be made from any standard material. For example, the lower portion or stuff
sack (30) may be made from the same material as separate storage sacks or the same material as the upper portion (20). This material is preferably water resistant or water proof and may comprise, for example, nylon, Gor Tex, or similar material. The lower portion or stuff sack (30) may be attached to the upper portion (20) by any suitable means including, for example, sewing, snapping, zipping, tying or similar means. The lower portion or stuff sack (30) is preferably sewed to the upper portion (20).

While the above description contains specific examples, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of the invention. Many other variations are possible within the teachings of the present invention and would be apparent to a person skilled in the art. Thus the scope of the invention should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents, and not by the examples given.
Claims:

1. A sleeping bag comprising:

an upper sleeping portion having an open end and a closed end; and

a lower sack portion having an open end and a closed end, wherein the closed end of the lower sack portion is fixedly attached to the closed end of upper sleeping portion, the upper sleeping portion being capable of insertion through the open end of the lower sack portion to be contained within the lower sack portion.

2. The sleeping bag of claim 1 wherein the lower sack portion is connected to the upper sleeping portion by one of sewing, snapping, zipping and tying.

3. The sleeping bag of claim 1, wherein the lower sack portion is sewn to the upper sleeping portion.

4. The sleeping bag of claim 1, wherein the upper sleeping portion is formed from an inner fabric layer connected to an outer fabric layer, an insulating material being disposed between the inner and outer fabric layers.

5. The sleeping bag of claim 1, wherein the lower sack portion comprises nylon.

6. The sleeping bag of claim 1, further comprising a drawstring disposed around a perimeter of the open end of the lower sack portion.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/16148

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : A47G 9/08
US Cl. : 5/413r , 383/4
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)
U.S. : 51413R, 413AM; 2169,69.5; 170/2 ; 383/4

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

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>FR 2,493,123 A (SALINO) 7 May 1982 (07/05/82) See entire document.</td>
<td>1-4 5,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>CAMPOR MID SUMMER CATALOG page 23, right side, &quot;ditty bags&quot; 1985, paramus N.J.</td>
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<td>A,P</td>
<td>US 6,129,452 A (HAKULIN) 10 October 2000 (10/10/00), See entire document.</td>
<td>1-5</td>
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