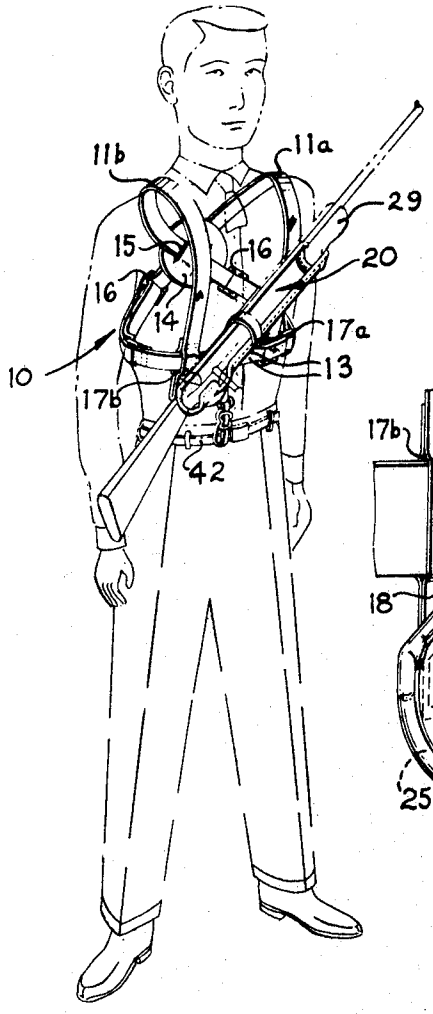
March 17, 1970 R. D. EMERICK 3,501,074

GUN CARRIER

Original Filed Sept. 19, 1962 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG_1



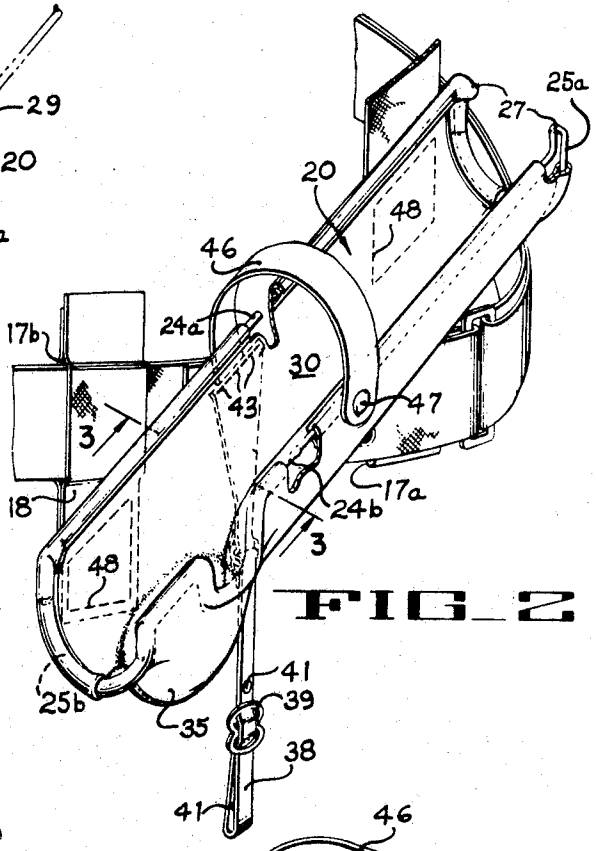




FIG_2

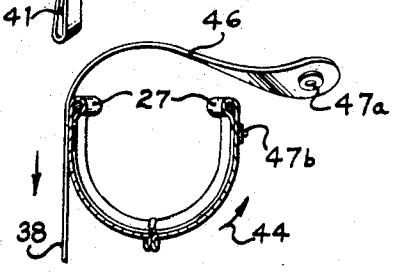



FIG_3

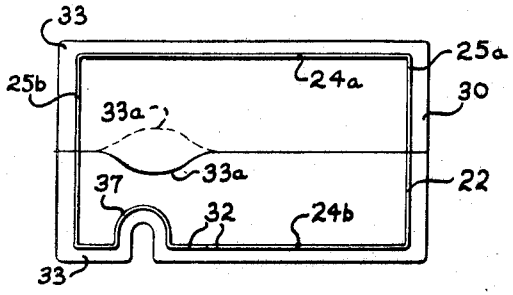



FIG_4

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GUN CARRIER

Original Filed Sept. 19, 1962 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

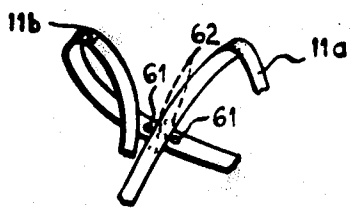


FIG_8

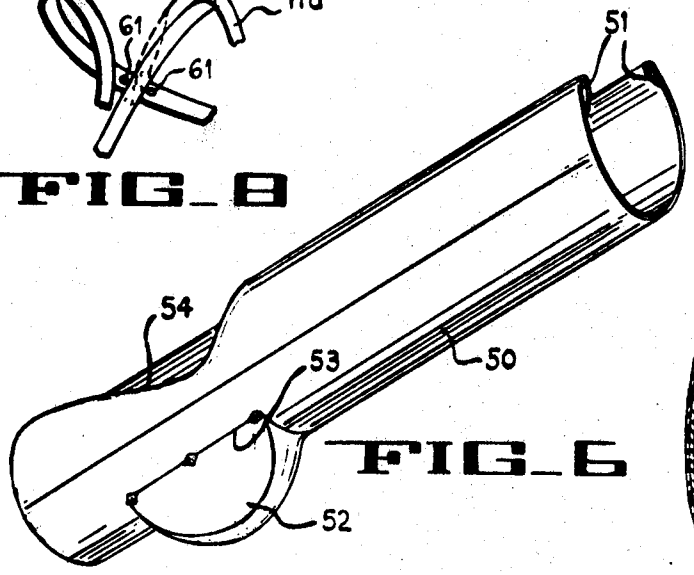


FIG_6

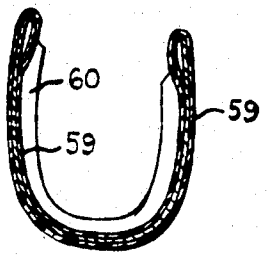


FIG_7

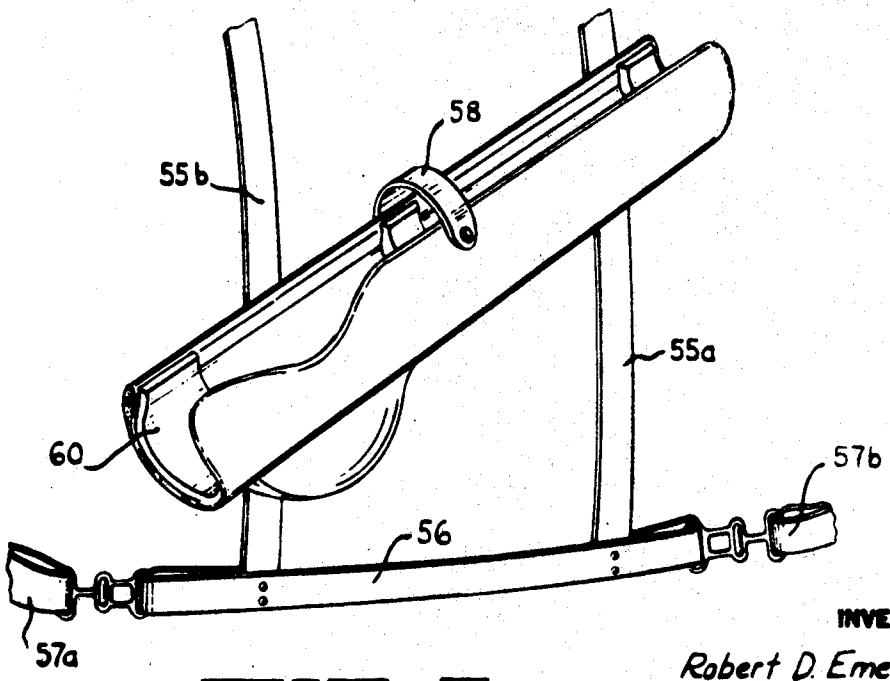


FIG_5

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3,501,074

# GUN CARRIER

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Substituted for abandoned application Ser. No. 224,792, Sept. 19, 1962. This application May 31, 1968, Ser. No. 733,644

Int. Cl. F41c 33/00

U.S. Cl. 224—1 6 Claims

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A gun carrier comprised of a harness, a trough-like cradle for holding a rifle or shotgun, and portions engaging the gun to prevent it from longitudinally slipping out of the trough, but yet permitting the gun to be readily released from the cradle.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is a substitute for abandoned application Ser. No. 224,792 filed Sept. 19, 1962.

Gun rests have been devised, for example, as shown in U.S. Patent 2,574,143 and U.S. Reissue Patent 16,238 which function somewhat to relieve the tedium of holding a gun of the above type for long periods. However, these arrangements have not allowed the wearer complete freedom of hand movement.

According to the present invention, a rifle or shotgun can be carried at a high "port arms" disposition without attendant manual attention, thereby freeing both hands of a person equipped with this novel carrier.

## OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a gun carrier whereby both hands of the wearer are freed while carrying a rifle or shotgun.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a gun carrier which can be worn over heavy winter clothing or cumbersome accouterments, such as worn by military personnel.

A feature of the present invention is that the gun carrier includes a cradle portion arranged to tend to rotate a rifle carried therein in an upwardly direction toward the wearer as distinguished from downwardly and away from the wearer, thereby tending to retain rather than to release the rifle. Furthermore, the gun carrier arrangement is disposed to maintain a rifle safely oriented with respect to the wearer even should he fall down.

Finally, it is still another object of the invention to provide a gun carrier apparatus which equalizes and distributes across the back and shoulders of the wearer the weight of a rifle being carried.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a gun carrier wherein the trigger of a rifle being carried is protected against accidental engagement.

Other objects of the invention will be pointed out in the following description and claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawing which discloses, by way of example, the principle of the invention and the best mode which has been contemplated of applying that principle.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In general, there is provided a gun carrier for a rifle or shotgun which holds the weapon in a "port arms" position and in which the weapon is readily releasable although firmly held as by overhanging portions of a trough-like cradle or a trigger guard receiving and retaining portion.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention as worn by a person shown in phantom lines.



FIGURE 2 is a detailed perspective view of the trough-like cradle.

FIGURE 3 is a section view taken at line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 shows the wire framework overlying the jacket-covering during manufacture of the FIGURE 1 embodiment.

FIGURE 5 shows another embodiment according to the invention.

FIGURE 6 shows the underlying cradle structure of the embodiment shown in FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 7 shows a transverse section along the line 7—7 of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 8 shows a portion of a harness in accordance with the invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Briefly stated, the present invention provides a gun carrier particularly useful with conventional, as well as bolt action rifles, shotguns, and similar weapons.

As shown in FIGURE 1, the apparatus is comprised generally of a harness **10** which supports a trough-like cradle **20**, best shown in FIGURE 2. Harness **10** includes a pair of shoulder straps **11***a* and **11***b*. Each of straps **11** is disposed to lead upwardly from the front of the wearer over his respective shoulders, across the back and beneath the rib cage of the wearer, and finally leading belt-like around the front of the wearer where the ends of straps **11** can overlap and be fastened to each other by means, such as several snap fasteners **13** of conventional design.

Where straps **11** cross in back of the wearer, there is shown a leather pad **14** having a pair of slits **15** substantially parallel to the sides of a strap **11***a* and normal to the sides of strap **11***b*. Strap **11***b* leads through both slits **15** while strap **11***a* leads between strap **11***b* and the exposed outer surface of pad **14**. In this way, straps **11** are held in place centrally of the back of the wearer, or as desired. Suitable conventional adjusting buckles **16** permit the harness to be adjusted to size for any particular person. As straps **11** lead around in front of the wearer, they pass respectively through loops **17***a* and **17***b*, formed in the initial ends of straps **11** by doubling them back upon themselves and sewing the looped ends thus formed. As noted above, snap fasteners **13**, disposed in the overlapping terminal ends, function as a buckle. Strap **11***b* extends below loop **17***b* to provide a depending end **18** to which cradle **20** can be secured.

In the embodiment shown in FIGURE 2, cradle **20** includes a suitable heavy gauge wire frame **22**, for example No. 9 galvanized wire, preferably of one piece construction formed to include a pair of roughly parallel longitudinal side rails **24***a* and **24***b*, rail **24***a* being nearest the wearer and referred to as the proximal rail, and rail **24***b* being disposed away from the wearer and referred to as the distal rail. Frame **22** is bent to provide a pair of U-shaped end portions **25***a* and **25***b*. The corners **27** at the transition between slide rails **24** at end portion **25***a* are sufficiently inwardly turned to extend partially over a gun, for example, rifle **29**, approximately at the forestock portion thereof. In this fashion, corners **27** serve to grip rifle **29**. The lower end **25***b* can also be similarly so provided with retaining corners.

A jacket **30** of deformable material such as leather encloses frame **22** by folding the margin thereover and stitching the periphery thereof. Referring to FIGURE 4, this can be accomplished by laying out frame **22** flatwise before bending and making it into the preferred unitary construction shown, merely by welding ends **32** of frame **22**.

A pair of jacket halves **33** are provided so that frame **22** extends around a marginal portion thereof. The peripheral margins of jacket halves **33** are then folded over frame **22** and stitched to themselves. As best shown in FIGURE 4, each of jacket halves **33** includes a pouch portion **33***a* formed to overlap one another as disposed in FIGURE 4 so that when edges **24** are bent up into substantially parallel spaced relation as shown in FIGURE 2, portions **33***a* will form a trigger guard receiving pouch **35**. Frame **22** is further formed to include a bend **37**, if desired, disposed to receive the bolt of a bolt-action rifle, such as shown in FIGURE 1.

From the foregoing construction, it will be observed that when jacket halves **33** are seamed together and secured upon frame **22** as formed in FIGURE 2, the trigger guard of rifle **29** rests securely in pouch **35** while the forestock of rifle **29** is gripped securely by the overlying corners **27**. Thus, pouch **35** keeps rifle **29** from sliding out of cradle **20** while corners **27** retain rifle **29** against removal upwardly. Furthermore, frame **22** can be deformed to accommodate various sizes of rifles merely by spreading or squeezing end portions **25** to conform therewith. Since frame **22**, although of a stiff heavy gauge wire as noted, contains a limited degree of resilience, rifle **29** can be easily forced downwardly into and removed from the trough-like cradle **20**.

In order to anchor cradle **20** downwardly as rifle **29** is snapped out of it, there is provided a tie-down strap **38** including an adjusting buckle **39** and a pair of snap fasteners **41**. With this construction, tie-down strap **38** can be looped around the clothing, for example a belt **42** as shown in FIGURE 1, and adjusted as desired. Strap **38** is disposed substantially centrally of harness **10** so as to permit it to be led through the front of jackets and heavy clothing of the wearer. The upper end of strap **38** is attached by stitching **43** at a disposition rather high upon the proximal side, i.e., nearest the wearer of jacket **33**. It has been found that connecting strap **38** rather high up on the side of jacket **33**, preferably adjacent rail **24***a*, as shown best in FIGURE 3, imparts a slight counterclockwise rotation, as shown by arrow **44** (FIGURE 3) to cradle **20**, thereby tending to rotate the distal side of jacket **33** upwardly and toward the wearer so as to assist in retaining gun **29** therein.

Over the top or rifle **29** and connected to the proximal side of cradle **20** (by sewing at one end) is an elastic safety strap **46** disposed intermediate the ends **25** of cradle **20** and provided at its free end with means such as a conventional snap fastener **47** for attachment to the distal side of jacket **30**.

After having manufactured cradle **20**, it is attached, as by sewing **48**, onto shoulder straps **11***a* and **11***b* so as to be positioned preferably in a high "port arm" disposition.

As can be seen, and as will be readily apparent from the foregoing description, the gun carrier above described frees the hands of the wearer completely so as not to require his attention in carrying rifle **29**. In addition, the trigger guard is covered so as to protect the trigger against accidental engagement which would discharge the rifle, as well as carrying the rifle in a relatively safe disposition. This safe disposition is maintained even if the wearer should fall. Thus, the rifle would not be apt to be dropped from cradle **20** even in such an instance. It can be appreciated that merely by squeezing or spreading rails **24** at either (or both) ends, many sizes of rifles can be accommodated, including bolt-action rifles requiring the presence of bend **37**. Furthermore, shoulder straps **11** can be of a suitably colored material, such as bright yellow, to serve additionally as a safety factor to the wearer while hunting. Finally, it should be noted that harness **10** will distribute the weight of rifle **29** evenly across the back and both shoulders of the wearer.

The above gun carrier can be worn over cumbersome military accouterments in a manner permitting quick release and disposition of rifle **29**, thereby making it advantageous for use with amphibious troops who might accidentally fall into the water while descending on cargo nets.



Another embodiment of the invention is shown in FIGURES 5 through 7. As shown in FIGURE 6, a rigid underlying structure of stiff material such as heavy gauge sheet metal, for example, No. 26 gauge black iron or galvanized iron, is formed into a U-shaped cradle **50**. As formed, cradle **50** includes a pair of substantially parallel longitudinal upper edges **51** which are turned inwardly to provide retaining ridge portions **51** therealong. Ridge portions **51** protrude in gripping relation over a gun lodged in the cradle. At the lower end of cradle **50** there is formed a hole **53** covered by a metal trigger guard cup **52** tack welded thereto. Cup **52** serves to ensure against any inadvertent contact with the trigger which might discharge a weapon being carried.

Cradle **50** further is formed with a gun bolt receiving recess **54**. The metal structure of FIGURE 6 is then covered by a suitable plastic material serving to provide a rubber-like surface covering **59** thereon. If desired, cradle **50** can be provided with additional padding, such as pads **60** of foam rubber or the like, to protect the finish of the weapon being carried.

Cradle **50** is then supported upon a harness as shown in FIGURE 5 by riveting the cradle to straps **55***a*, **55***b*, similar to straps **11***a*, **11***b* in FIGURE 1. The ends of straps **55***a*, **55***b* are fastened together by means of a belt section **56** provided at each end with a buckle cooperating with the respective ends **57**a, **57***b*, of straps **55**. Finally, a retaining strap **58** is riveted to the proximal wall of cradle **50** and adapted to be snapped, in use, to the distal wall.

With reference to FIGURE 8 there is shown a partial view of a preferred harness in accordance with the invention. As is shown, straps **11***a* and **11***b* are disposed to cross in back of the wearer. Fastening means are provided, such as snap fasteners **61** and **62**, which serve to secure the shoulder straps to each other at the region of intersection. The fastening means serves to prevent relative movement of one of the straps along the other whereby sliding is substantially precluded and the harness can be maintained in the position as adjusted to the person. To this end, several male snap fasteners **61**, have been attached to the inside surface of strap **11***b* and several female fasteners **62** have been attached to the outside surface of strap **11***a*. As thus arranged, these fasteners can be interlocked for precluding the relative movement above described.

Accordingly, while there have been shown and described and pointed out the fundamental features of the invention as applied to a preferred embodiment, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the device illustrated and in its operation may be made by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, it will be readily apparent that while the foregoing description relates generally to transporting a rifle, the gun carrier is equally useful in carrying a shotgun. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

**1.** A gun carrier comprising a shoulder harness adapted to be worn by a person while supporting a rifle or shotgun, a gun holder comprising a trough-like cradle secured to said harness, said cradle serving to carry therein a gun of the size and shape of a rifle or shotgun, said cradle being further disposed from said harness and positioned to be oriented diagonally across the torso of the wearer approximately in a "port arms" disposition, said cradle being open along the top to provide spaced parallel edges to receive a rifle or shotgun therebetween, said edges being formed to provide a holding portion protruding in gripping relation partially over the rifle or shotgun lodged

in said cradle, said cradle further including a pouch disposed near the lower end thereof to receive the trigger guard of said rifle or shotgun to cooperate therewith in retaining the gun in the cradle.

2. In a gun carrier as in claim 1 wherein said cradle comprises a wire frame and a covering supported by said frame to form a jacket suspended therefrom for partially enclosing said gun, said frame including a pair of spaced and substantially parallel longitudinal sides connected by U-shaped end portions, said holding portion comprising sufficiently inwardly turned corners at the transition between said sides and at least one of said end portions to extend partially over said gun, the edge remote from the wearer being relieved and formed to receive the bolt of a bolt-action weapon whereby the pouch, the inwardly turned corners, and relieved portion of the last named edge serve to maintain a gun lodged in said cradle diagonally of the wearer.

3. In a gun carrier as in claim 1 further including a strap depending downwardly from said cradle, one end of said strap being secured to said cradle substantially adjacent the edge nearest the wearer to depend downwardly free of said cradle from the edge adapted to be worn next to the torso, the other end of said strap including means for securing the depending end thereof to the clothing of the wearer sufficiently taut to tend to rotate the cradle upwardly and toward the wearer.

4. A gun carrier adapted to be attached to a harness and supported on a person therefrom in a "port arms" disposition, said carrier comprising a unitary frame of stiff wire having limited resilience formed to include a pair of spaced apart substantially parallel longitudinal sides connected by U-shaped end portions, said frame including sufficiently inwardly turned corners at the transition between said sides and one end portion to cause said corners to extend partially over a gun lodged in said carrier thereby gripping said gun, a jacket of deformable material marginally enclosing said frame and supported thereby, said jacket including a pouch dimensioned and disposed in position to receive the trigger guard of a gun,



the tips of said U-shaped portions being spaced sufficiently when taken with said limited resilience to permit a gun to be forced downwardly therebetween into, and held by, said jacket, and a strap depending downwardly from the upper region of the side of said jacket nearest the wearer of said carrier, said strap including means at its distal end adapted for attachment to the clothing of the wearer.

5. A gun carrier comprising a shoulder harness adapted to be worn by a person, a gun holder comprising a trough-like cradle for carrying a gun of the type such as a rifle or shotgun, said cradle being secured to said harness to be carried diagonally across the torso of the wearer approximately in a "port arms" disposition, said cradle being open along the top to provide spaced parallel edges to receive a gun of the above type therebetween and further including a holding portion formed to protrude in gripping relation partially over the gun lodged in said cradle, said cradle further including a receiving and retaining portion disposed near the lower end thereof to receive and engage the trigger guard of said gun and inhibit relative sliding movement between the gun and cradle, said cradle being formed to include a pair of substantially parallel longitudinal sides of relatively stiff material, said sides having upper longitudinal edge portions turned inwardly to form retaining ridge portions adapted to protrude in gripping relation partially over the gun when lodged in said cradle.

6. A gun carrier according to claim 5 wherein said retaining portion comprises a pouch formed as a rigid cup disposed in protective relationship to enclose the trigger guard and trigger of said gun thereby ensuring against accidental discharge of the gun.

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GERALD M. FORLENZA, Primary Examiner