Aug. 8, 1967 R. T. SAARI ETAL 3,334,794

GUN AND ROD SLING WITH AMMUNITION RACK

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Fig. 1

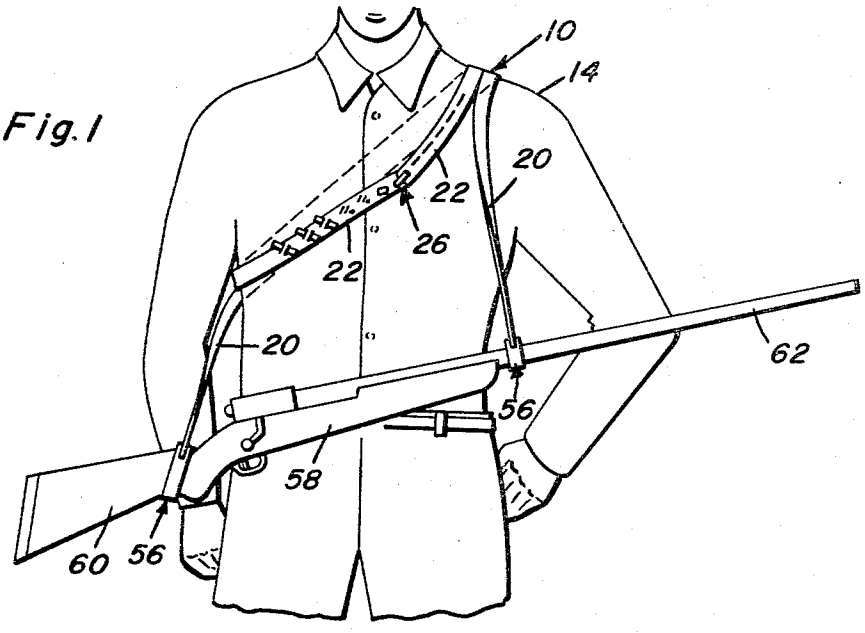


Fig. 2

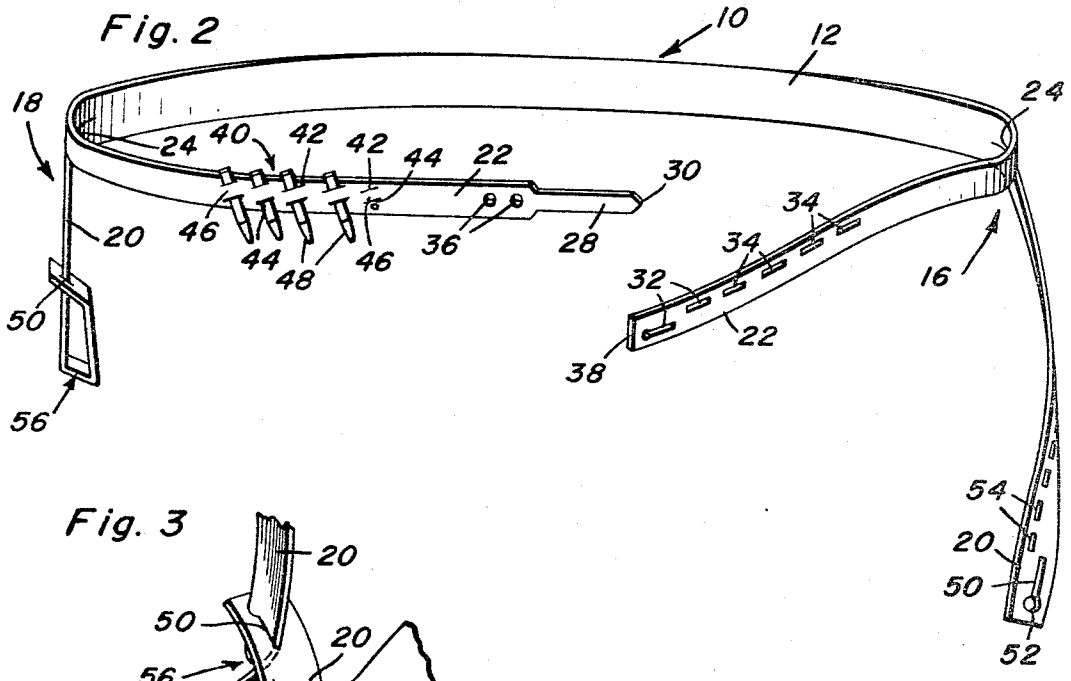
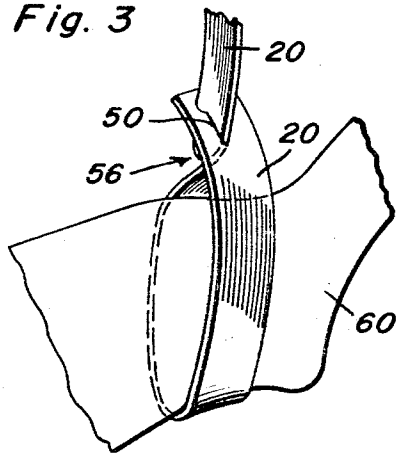


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

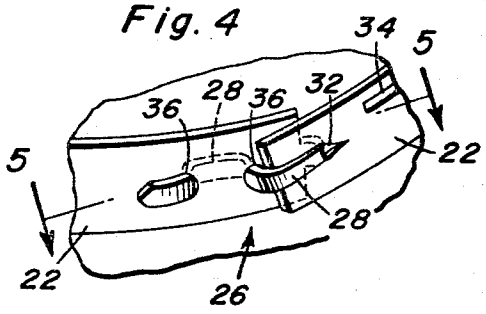


Fig. 5

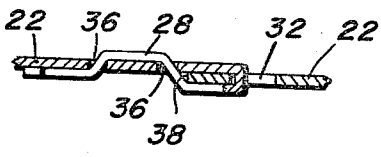


Fig. 6

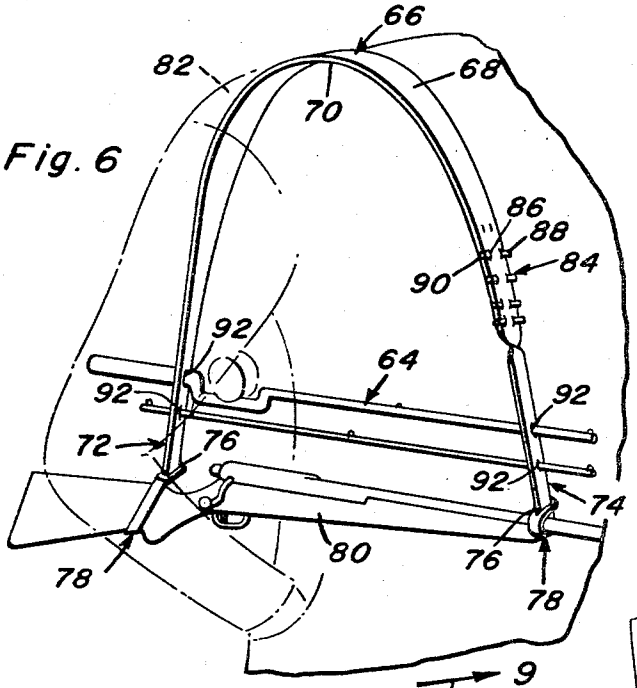


Fig. 9

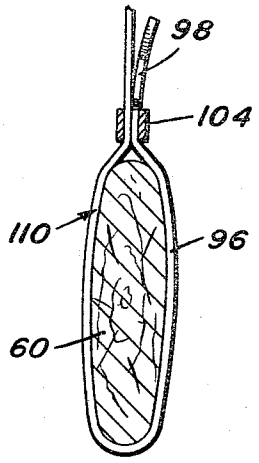


Fig. 10

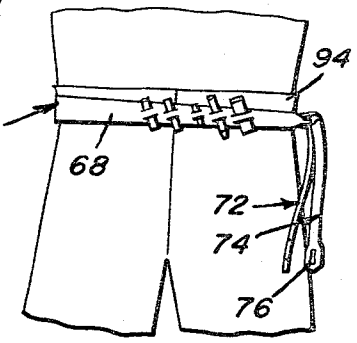


Fig. 7

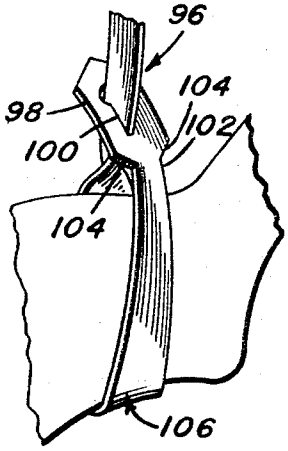
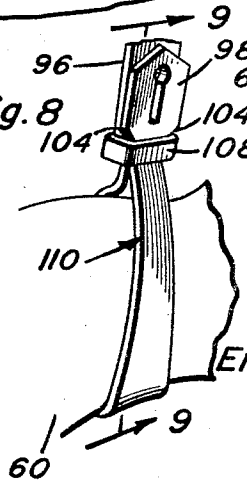


Fig. 8



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GUN AND ROD SLING WITH AMMUNITION RACK

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6 Claims. (Cl. 224—1)

This invention relates generally to carriers for sporting equipment and more particularly to multipurpose gun and rod slings which are adapted for use by hunters in the field.

Briefly, this invention comprises two embodiments of gun slings which are adapted to be worn over the shoulder of a hunter in order to carry a rifle either across the body, at the side, in port position, or in firing position. Further, these slings are quite versatile inasmuch as they allow for carrying of cartridges, fishing rods, bows or game while the user's hands remain free for other purposes.

It is an object of the instant invention to provide slings having self-contained means for carrying a firearm, fishing rod or bow therein.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide slings for rifles which allow the user to carry the rifle in back slung, slide slung, or front slung port or firing positions.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a flexible gun sling which is fabricated of elastomeric material and which includes means for carrying a plurality of various size cartridges therein.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide two embodiments of rifle slings of the character described each including novel means for forming rifle supporting loops therein in order to readily support various size rifles by the barrel and stock.

It is a final object of the present invention to provide novel gun slings which are extremely efficient in operation while at the same time relatively inexpensive to construct and maintain.

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:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of a first preferred embodiment of the present invention mounted in place on a user with a rifle supported therefrom in the intended manner;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the embodiment of the present invention illustrated in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged partial perspective view of the rifle stock supporting loop illustrated in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged partial perspective view of the fastening means illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2;

FIGURE 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken substantially on the plane of the line 5—5 of FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 6 is a partial perspective view of a second preferred embodiment of the present invention mounted in place on a user with a rifle and fishing rod supported therefrom in the intended manner;

FIGURES 7 and 8 are modified embodiments of the rifle stock supporting loop illustrated in FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 9 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the plane of the line 9—9 of FIGURE 8; and

FIGURE 10 is a perspective view of the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGURE 6 shown mounted about a user's waist in game supporting position.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings, and especially to FIGURES 1–3, reference numeral **10** generally denotes the gun and rod sling which comprises the first embodiment of the present invention. The sling **10** includes a main body member or harness **12** which is preferably constructed of a high grade synthetic rubber or other elastomeric material which is weather resistant while at the same time strong enough to support a rifle or fishing rod thereform. The sling **10** is adapted to be worn over the soulder **14** of a user in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1.

The main body member **12** includes bifurcated end portions **16** and **18**, each including a carrier strap **20** and a body supporting strap **22**. The carrier straps **20** and body supporting straps **22** are formed integrally with the body member **12** and are of the same material as the body member, the straps **20** and **22** each being split apart from the body member **12** as indicated at reference numeral **24**.

The body supporting members **22** are adapted to be engaged about the body of a user and fastened together as indicated by reference numeral **26**. The body supporting members **22** are releasably fastened together in the following manner. The left hand body supporting member **22** in FIG. 2 has a male fastening tab **28** extending from the end thereof, the fastening tab **28** being of reduced width and having an inwardly tapered forward end **30**. The right hand body supporting strap **22** has a main slot **32** therein and a plurality of spaced slots **34** equally spaced therealong. The left hand body supporting strap has a pair of spaced apertures **36** therein adjacent the tab **28** for receiving the tab **28** in order to releasably fasten the tab in the main slot **32** or one of the auxiliary slots **34**. Thus, it will be observed in FIGURES 4 and 5, that the body supporting strap **22** may be releasably fastened about the user's body in order to support the main body portion **12** from the user's shoulder **14** by the tab **28** being moved through the slot **32** and then threaded past the end **38** of the right hand body supporting strap **22** and through the spaced tab receiving apertures **36**. Due to the elastomeric construction of the straps **22** and tab **28**, when the tab **28** is moved through the main slot **32**, the slot will be stretched to receive the tab and when released will frictionally engage the tab, as will occur when the tab **28** is threaded through the tab receiving apertures **36**. Thus, in this manner, the body receiving straps **22** will be releasably fastened together. Further, as will be appreciated, the tab **28** could also be positioned through any of the slots **34** in order to provide for adjustment of the size of the sling in order to fit on persons of different size.

A cartridge receiving rack section **40** is provided on the left hand body receiving strap **22**, the rack section **40** including a plurality of pairs of parallel slits **42** and **44** cut into the strap **22** and spaced apart to leave a strap portion **46** therebetween. As will be noted in FIGURE 2, for example, the slits **42** and **44** are cut at an angle with respect to the longitudinal length of strap **22**. Thus, due to the elasticity of the strap **22** cartridges **48** of various diameters may be easily slipped through the slits **42** and **44** and thus be releasably mounted in the rack **40** between the strap portion **46** and body supporting strap **42**.

When the sling **10** is positioned over the user's shoulder **14** and retained thereon by fastening of body supporting straps **22**, the carrier straps **20** will normally hang downwardly alongside the user's body, the right hand strap extending over the front of the user's shoulder **14** and the left hand strap extending down behind the user's other shoulder. The carrier straps **20** are substantially identical, and each includes an elongate slot **50** therein including a forward enlarged portion **52**. Further, a plurality of spaced slots **54** are spaced along both carrier straps **20** rearwardly

of the slot **50**. The slot **50** is provided in the carrier straps in order to be able to form slip loops **56** at the ends thereof, the slip loops **56** being especially adapted to carry a rifle such as the rifle **58** from the sling **10**. Thus, by viewing FIGURES 1 and 3 in particular, it will be observed that the rifle stock **60** is carried in the left hand loop **56** and the rifle barrel **62** is carried in the right hand loop. The loops **56** are formed by moving or pushing a portion of the carrier strap **20** adjacent the slot **50** through the slot, the slot **50** being readily stretchable to receive the inboard portion of the carrier strap **20** due to the elastomeric properties thereof. Thus, it will be observed particularly in FIGURE 3, that the loop **56** may be readily formed in the end of the carrier straps **20** and when so formed will provide a frictionally engaged slip loop. The loops **56** are frictional slip loops by virtue of the elastomeric properties of the carrier straps **20** wherein the strap portion that is forced through the slot **50** will be engaged by the sides of the slot when the slot is released. Thus, it will be apparent that the rifle **58** may be carried either in the position illustrated in FIGURE 1 with the stock adjacent the user's right hand and the slip loops **56** tightened down against the stock and barrel or may be reversed with the stock adjacent the user's left hand inasmuch as the slip loops **56** may be enlarged or contracted in order to reverse the position of the rifle therein. Further, due to the composition of the carrier straps **20** when the rifle is so supported, it will be protected from being marred or scraped, as is possible when carried otherwise.

Referring again to FIGURE 2 and also to FIGURE 6, the purpose of the slots **54** in carrier straps **20** will be observed. Thus, it will be seen that a fishing pole **64** may be positioned through the slots **54** in both carrier straps in order to carry the pole as well as the rifle **58** therein. Further, it will be appreciated that a bow or other elongated sporting or hunting equipment may be readily carried between the carrier straps **20** merely by positioning the opposite ends thereof in the slots **54**, the slots being stretchable by virtue of the composition of the straps to receive various size articles therein. Further, the sling **10** may be positioned on the wearer with the rifle **58** carried across the front of the wearer or may be slipped around so that the rifle is carried at the wearer's side or at his back. It will also be readily apparent that the rifle **58** may be used without being removed from the loops **56**, the carrier straps providing means for steadying the rifle as it is being fired.

Referring now to FIGURES 6 and 10 in particular, a second preferred embodiment of the present invention is generally denoted by reference numeral **66**. The sling **66** includes a main body member **68** which is widest at the mid-section thereof, as generally denoted by reference numeral **70**. The body member **68** tapers inwardly to narrow end portions **72** and **74**, which end portions each includes a slot **76** therein similar to the slot **50** described in relation to the above embodiment of the present invention. Thus, by viewing FIGURE 6 in particular, it will be observed that loops **78** identical to the loops **56** described above, may be formed in the ends **72** and **74** of the sling **76** in order to support a rifle **80** therefrom. Further, it will be observed that the sling **66** may be suspended from the user's shoulder **82** with the rifle **80** being suspended under the user's arm adjacent his side. Thus, the rifle **80** is in carrying position and may be readily swung up into firing position by the user when desired. Further, it will be appreciated that the slidable loops **78** may be tightened and slipped upwardly to shorten the sling **66** whereby a one-armed person may use a rifle slung from the sling **66**.

Referring again to FIGURE 6, it will be observed that the body member **66** includes a cartridge rack **84** substantially similar to the cartridge rack **40** described above, including a plurality of pairs of slits **86** and **88** for positioning cartridges **90** in the rack. Further, the end portions **72** and **74** of the sling have additional slots **92** therein whereby a fishing rod generally denoted by reference numeral **64** may be carried by the sling as mentioned above in relation to the previous embodiment of the invention. It will also be appreciated that other elongate sporting devices may be carried by the sling in this manner.

Referring now to FIGURE 10 it will be observed that the sling **66** may be worn about the waist **94** of a user, with one end **72** thereof slipped through one of the slots **92** in the other end, with the ends **72** and **74** hanging downwardly adjacent the user's side. The sling **66** may be worn in this fashion due to the elastomeric properties of the invention which will frictionally retain the sling on the user's waist. The end portions **72** and **74** hanging downwardly adjacent the user's side enable the user to carry various objects such as game or the like by forming a loop from the ends **72** and **74** by slipping one end into the slot **76** in the other end. Thus, it will be apparent that the sling **66** when used in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 10 constitutes an ammunition carrier and/or game carrier.

Referring now to FIGURES 7–9, a modified loop forming means useful with both embodiments of the present invention is illustrated. Referring first in particular to FIGURE 7, it will be observed that the sling end generally denoted by reference numeral **96**, which may be either the end of sling **10** or sling **64** has an enlarged head **98** thereon including a slot **100** therein and an inwardly tapered portion **102** in the member **96** immediately behind the head **98**, thus forming shoulders **104**. In the illustration of FIGURE 7, the loop **106** is formed in a similar manner to the formation of loops **56** and **78**, that is, the portion of the member adjacent the slot **100** is pushed through the slot in order to form the loop. However, referring to FIGURES 8 and 9, a second manner of forming the loop is illustrated. In this modified form of the invention, an annular sleeve member **108** of an elastomeric material similar to that of which the slings **10** and **66** are constructed is provided. It will be observed that the loop **100** in the end of member **96** is formed by folding the end of the member **96** back upon itself and sliding the sleeve over the fold to a point adjacent the shoulders **104** on enlarged head **98**. Thus, when the sleeve **108** is thus positioned, it will have been stretched in order to have been received over the fold and then released whereby the sleeve will frictionally retain the fold in looped position. It will be readily apparent that the rifle stock **60** or the barrel **62** may be positioned in the loop **110** and the sleeve **108** slided into tight frictional engagement with the stock or barrel in order to releasably fasten the rifle in suspension from the slings **110** or **56**.

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. A sling for use in carrying sporting equipment comprising, a main body member, said main body member being unitarily constructed of elastomeric material and adapted to be supported from a user's shoulder, said main body member being relatively flat and elongate in shape, means for forming a sliding loop at one end of said main body member whereby the first end of a rifle may be supported therein, means for forming a sliding loop at the other end of said main body member whereby the other end of a rifle may be supported therein, and means on said main body member for carrying a plurality of cartridges, said main body member including a central portion of greatest width, the ends of said main body member being unitary and inwardly tapered.

2. The combination of claim **1** wherein each said loop forming means comprises an elongate slot in said ends, a

portion of said end adjacent said slot being movable through said slot so as to form a slip loop.

3. The combination of claim 1 wherein each said loop forming means comprises an enlarged head portion on said ends, a sleeve member, said enlarged head portion being foldable against said end to form a loop, and said sleeve member adapted to fit over said loop adjacent said enlarged head for releasably retaining said end in looped condition.

4. The combination of claim 1 wherein said cartridge carrying means comprises a plurality of pairs of slits in one of said ends, each of said pairs of slits having a strap portion therebetween, said strap portions adapted to be pushed outwardly for receiving a cartridge through said pairs of slits, said cartridges thereby being retained between said strap portions and said one end.

5. The sling as defined in claim 1 wherein said means forming sliding loops on the body member define game choker means when the body member is disposed in waist encircling position, said game choker means including a longitudinal slot at each end of the body member.

6. The combination of claim 1 including means in each end of said main body member adjacent the means for forming a sliding loop for supporting one end of an elongate object such as a fishing rod or bow.

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