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**A multipurpose garment**

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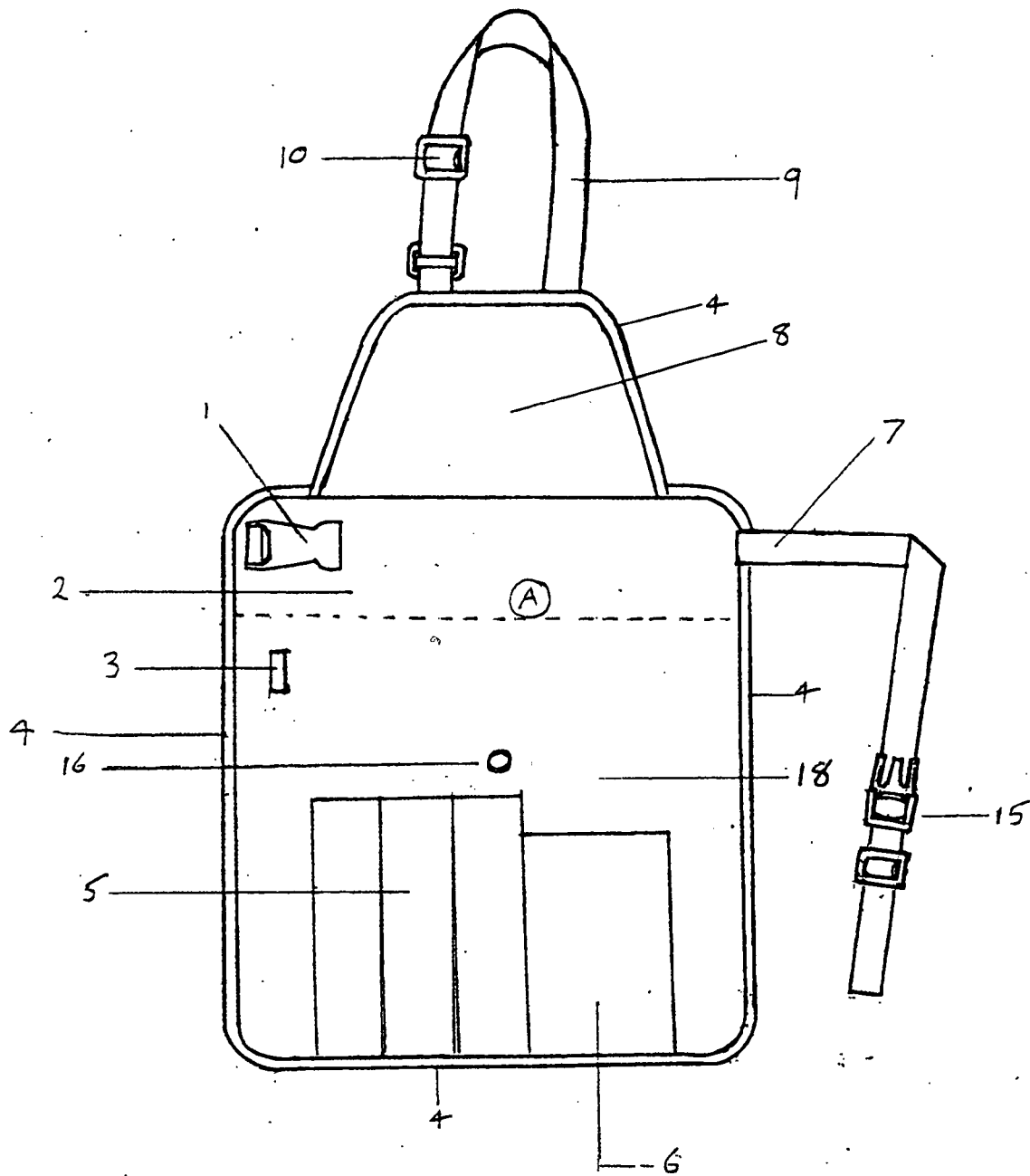
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## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to an article of clothing which has a dual purpose and function. The present invention is in one form a reversible pocketed apron that converts into a general carry bag. The apron has at least one large rear pocket which forms main compartment of the bag and has carry handles on the pocket. A bib portion is provided which is retractable away from the pocket.

Fig 1



## **MULTIPURPOSE GARMENT.**

### **FIELD OF INVENTION**

The present invention relates to clothing articles, such as garments and / or aprons, which have at least a dual purpose. In one aspect, the present invention provides an apron which can be worn by a user, and alternatively, provides a carry bag which can be used to carry general goods.

### **BACKGROUND ART**

A number of attempts have been made in the prior art to provide multipurpose bags.

One example is disclosed in JP 2002061011 which discloses an apron capable of being transformed into a bag different in shape from the apron. However, in carrying out the transformation process from an apron to a carry bag, the design requires a number of straps or handles to be dislodged and relocated. Furthermore, the apron must be folded and clipped together in a particular manner in order to form the carry bag itself. These transformation processes are considered to be relatively complicated, and involve a relatively high level of dexterity on the part of the user to make the transformation from apron to carry bag and visa-versa.

Another example is US 6,530,089 which discloses an adjustable garment protector, which may also be fabricated as a convertible food bag. However, the food bag provided is also disposable which limits its ability to be reused. It is considered to be not suitable for carrying general goods, such as grocery items, as the bag does not have suitable handles and is adapted to provide a closed bag with a lid. This is considered to limit the use of the bag provided in this disclosure.

There is still considered to be a need for a garment, such as an apron which can be transformed into a carry bag.

It is an object of the present invention to alleviate at least one disadvantage of the prior art.

Any discussion of documents, devices, acts or knowledge in this specification is included to explain the context of the invention. It should not be taken as an admission that any of the material forms a part of the prior art base or the common general knowledge in the relevant art in Australia or elsewhere on or before the priority date of the disclosure and claims herein.

#### **SUMMARY OF INVENTION**

The present invention provides, in one aspect, a clothing article, being adapted for dual purpose use, the first use being a carry bag and the second use being a garment protector, the article comprising a first body portion having attached thereto an additional panel forming a pouch between the panel and the first portion, the pouch being adapted, in use, to have goods placed therein, and a bib portion having a strap adapted for placement around the neck of a user and being adapted to support the article, the bib portion being retractable in a direction towards the first body portion.

Preferably, the bib portion is releasably coupled to the first body portion when retracted.

Preferably, a second portion is disposed intermediate the first portion and the bib portion.

Preferably, the second portion is retractable in a direction towards the first body portion.

Preferably, the second portion is retractable together with the bib portion.

Preferably, the second portion and / or the bib portion is retractable by folding over a part of the first portion.

Preferably, one or more additional pockets are formed on the first body portion.

Preferably, one or more further pockets are formed on the additional panel.

Preferably, the garment protector is an apron.

The present invention provides, in another aspect, a method of transforming an article of clothing being a garment protector into a carry bag, the article having a first body portion having attached thereto an additional panel

forming a pouch between the panel and the first portion, the pouch being adapted, in use, to have goods placed therein, and a bib portion, the method comprising the steps of retracting the bib portion toward the first portion and away from the pouch and releasably securing the bib portion to the first portion.

Preferably, handles are provided proximate the pouch for providing a means to carry the bag.

In another aspect, the present invention provides, an article substantially as herein disclosed.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of transforming an article as herein disclosed.

Other aspects and preferred aspects are disclosed in the specification and / or defined in the appended claims, forming a part of the description of the invention.

In essence, the present invention provides an design which is considered very useful. When converted to a bag, the present invention enables various goods to be transported and when converted to an apron, the apron can be used for general purposes, such as for substantially protecting a portion of the clothing of a user. An example of the use of the Apron Carry Bag of the present invention is at a barbeque or picnic. Foods, drinks, cutlery can be carried by the present invention to the barbeque or picnic site, emptied out of the bag, the bag can be then converted to one of two types of reversible aprons for the food preparation. School children could use the convertible bag to carry art or craft work materials and then later convert the Apron Carry Bag to a form of protective garment such as an apron while working on their project. The present invention provides, in one form, a reversible Apron Carry Bag, in the form of a reversible pocketed apron that also converts to a general goods carrying bag. The present invention provides a garment which comprises, in one form, an apron which has pockets capable of holding various items and can also be converted to a general carry bag.

## **DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

Further disclosure, objects, advantages and aspects of the present application may be better understood by those skilled in the relevant art by reference to the following description of a preferred embodiment taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a front view of the garment of the present invention configured for use as an apron,

Figure 2 illustrates a rear view of the garment of the present invention configured for use as an apron,

Figure 3 illustrates another rear view of the garment of the present invention configured for use as an apron, but with additional handles showing,

Figure 4 illustrates a front view of the garment folded in an intermediate position,

Figure 5 illustrates a front view of a carry bag according to the present invention, and

Figure 6 illustrates a rear view of the carry bag according to the present invention.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

Referring to Figure 1, there is shown an apron carry bag which is adapted to be reversible, thus in one form serve as a work apron (Figure 1) and in another form capable of being converted to a general carry bag (Figure 5).

The apron has three portions, namely a bib portion 8, a first or body portion 18 and a foldable or second portion 2.

An neck strap (9) is provided for supporting the garment around the neck of a user. An adjustment means 10 is provided to adjust the length of the strap. A front bib panel 8 is adapted to act as a part of the garment which functions to cover or shield a part of a user's body, such as the chest.

The garment may have reinforced edging in the form of a reinforcing ribbing 4.

In the embodiment shown, the bib portion is attached to the foldable or second portion 2. In an alternative embodiment, the bib portion may be attached directly to the first portion 18.

The second portion 2 has attached waist strap 7, also with an adjustable means 15, and being fixed to one side of second panel for coupling, in use, around the body or waist of a user for fitment with a snap connection 1.

Sewn on face of the second portion 2 may be a towel strap loop 3 providing a means by which, in use, a user can attach a towel to the garment.

Also sewn on face of front panel may be a number of pockets 5 and 6. the pockets 5 and 6 may be of any suitable size, however are illustrated in Figure 1 as being suitable for carrying barbeque and other similar utensils. Thus a number of smaller pockets 5 are provided as well as a larger pocket 6.

In Figure 2, a rear view is shown of the garment disposed as an apron. A rear view 8a of the bib portion is shown together with the rear view 2a of the second portion. The rear view (not shown) of the first portion of the garment body is obscured by an additional panel 11. The additional panel 11 is attached to the first portion and between them they form a pouch which also has a dual purpose, that of the means by which a user can place goods and have the present invention act as a carry bag. Preferably, the panel 11 is of a size substantially similar to the first portion 18, however, the panel may be of any size. The size of the panel 11 serves to determine the size of the carry bag pouch.

An additional pouch may be formed between the panel 11 and further panel 12. Preferably, the further panel 12 is a mesh however it may also be a panel of similar material as that of the garment. The further pouch may be of any suitable size.

The adjustable neck strap 9 and 10 is also shown. In use, a user would preferably place the neck strap 9 around their neck, with the panels 11 and 12 facing their body. Obviously, the apron may alternatively be used in the reverse, where the panels 11 and 12 are provided generally away from the body of the user.



As shown in Figure 3, attached to either or both panel 2a and panel 11 is a pair of carry handles. These handles are positioned on either side of the pouch formed between panels 2a and 11, and which form the carry bag according to the present invention. Thus the positioning of the handles 14 is to enable a user to hold the garment or bag so as to carry goods held within the pouch formed between panels 11 and 2a.

In Figure 1, there is also shown a releasable coupling 16 attached to the first portion 18 and a corresponding releasable coupling 17 which is shown in Figure 2 attached to the bib portion 8. The purpose of the releasable coupling is to engage each other as shown in Figure 4, when the bib portion is folded over an imaginary line extending at the top of the second portion 2. The bib portion 8 is folded toward the body portion 18 and in an overlapping manner. This forms an intermediate position for the garment, in transition between the apron of Figure 1 and the carry bag of Figure 5. The releasable couplings serve to detachably hold the bib portion in a manner so that the bib portion can again be folded, if desired. The bib portion 8a is folded in a direction, preferably away from the pouch (not shown) formed by panels 11 and 18 as described above.

In an alternative embodiment, where there is no second portion provided on the garment, the releasable coupling means would be provided in a different position, and in a manner that the bib portion could be folded over an imaginary line proximate the top of the body portion 18, and folded over the first body portion 18.

Figure 5 illustrates the garment as transformed to a carry bag. The apron bib panel 8 as folded as described above in relation to Figure 4, folds flat onto the first body portion 2 by being folded along crease line (A) shown in Figure 1 proximate the top of panel 11. This folding is performed preferably in the opposition direction from the carry bag pouch formed between panels 11 and 18 as described above. That is, the folded bib portion, and along imaginary line (A), does not form a closure or lid over the pouch formed by panels 11 and 18. Thus, this folding may form a decorative bag flap to hide and support bib panel 8, and neck strap 9 and to expose or enable carry handles 13 and 14 to be used.

The releasable coupling means 16 and 17 may be used in addition or alternatively to releasably secure the folded front panel.

The garment of the present invention may be made of any suitable material, such as cloth, plastic, nylon, cotton, heshan, etc.

While this invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that it is capable of further modification(s). This application is intended to cover any variations uses or adaptations of the invention following in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice within the art to which the invention pertains and as may be applied to the essential features hereinbefore set forth.

As the present invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit of the essential characteristics of the invention, it should be understood that the above described embodiments are not to limit the present invention unless otherwise specified, but rather should be construed broadly within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims. Various modifications and equivalent arrangements are intended to be included within the spirit and scope of the invention and appended claims. Therefore, the specific embodiments are to be understood to be illustrative of the many ways in which the principles of the present invention may be practiced. In the following claims, means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover structures as performing the defined function and not only structural equivalents, but also equivalent structures. For example, although a nail and a screw may not be structural equivalents in that a nail employs a cylindrical surface to secure wooden parts together, whereas a screw employs a helical surface to secure wooden parts together, in the environment of fastening wooden parts, a nail and a screw are equivalent structures.

"Comprises/comprising" when used in this specification is taken to specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps or components but does not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, components or groups thereof."

**CLAIMS**

1. A clothing article, being adapted for dual purpose use, the first use being a carry bag and the second use being a garment protector, the article comprising:
  - a first body portion having attached thereto an additional panel forming a pouch between the panel and the first portion, the pouch being adapted, in use, to have goods placed therein, and
  - a bib portion having a strap adapted for placement around the neck of a user and being adapted to support the article, the bib portion being retractable in a direction towards the first body portion.
2. An article as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a second portion disposed intermediate the first portion and the bib portion.
3. An article as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second portion and / or the bib portion is retractable by folding over a part of the first portion and wherein the second portion and / or the bib portion is releasably coupled to the first body portion when retracted.
4. A method of transforming an article of clothing being a garment protector into a carry bag, the article having a first body portion having attached thereto an additional panel forming a pouch between the panel and the first portion, the pouch being adapted, in use, to have goods placed therein, and a bib portion, the method comprising the steps of:
  - retracting the bib portion toward the first portion and away from the pouch
  - and
  - releasably securing the bib portion to the first portion.
5. An article substantially as herein described.

Fig 1

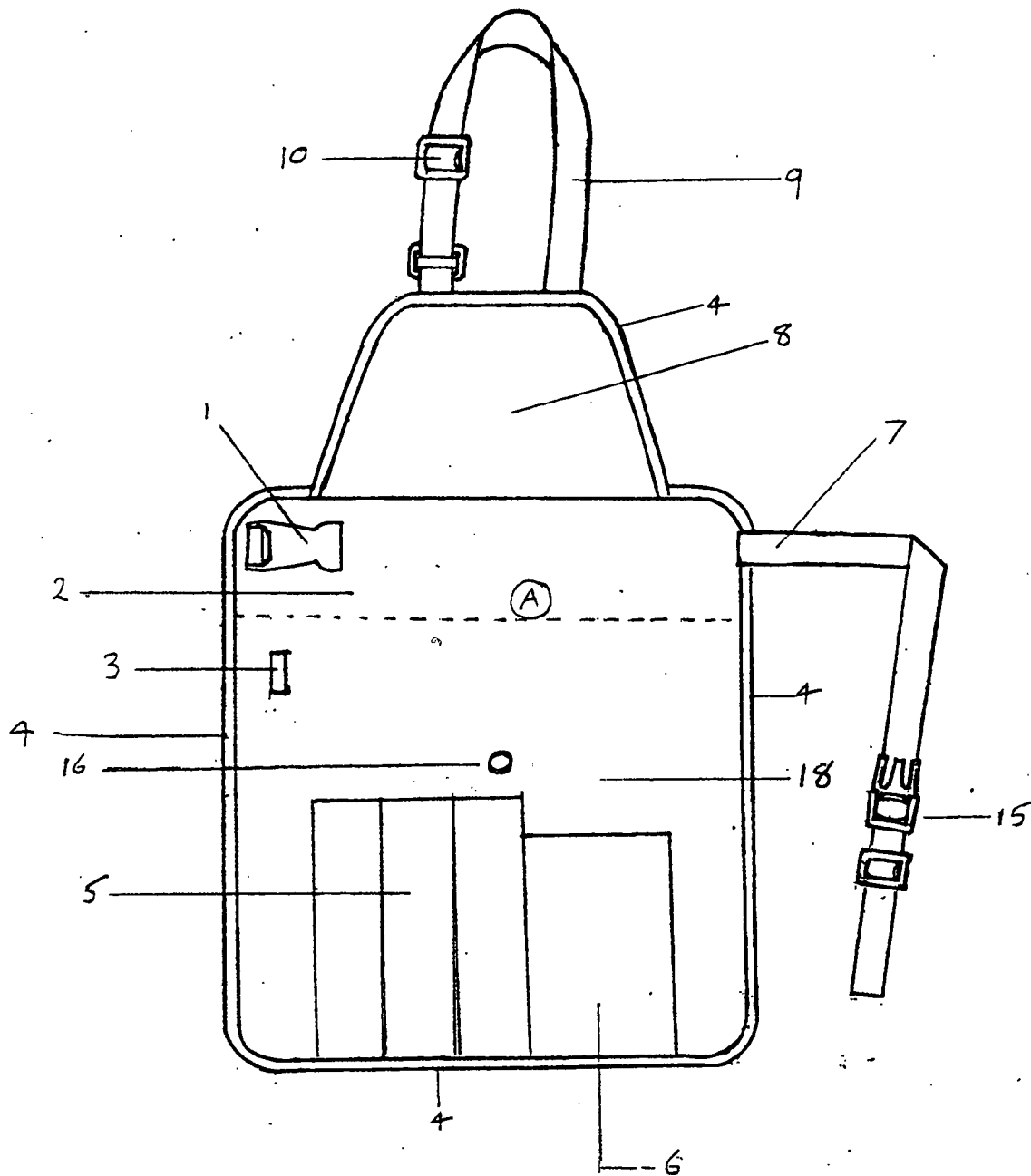


Fig 2

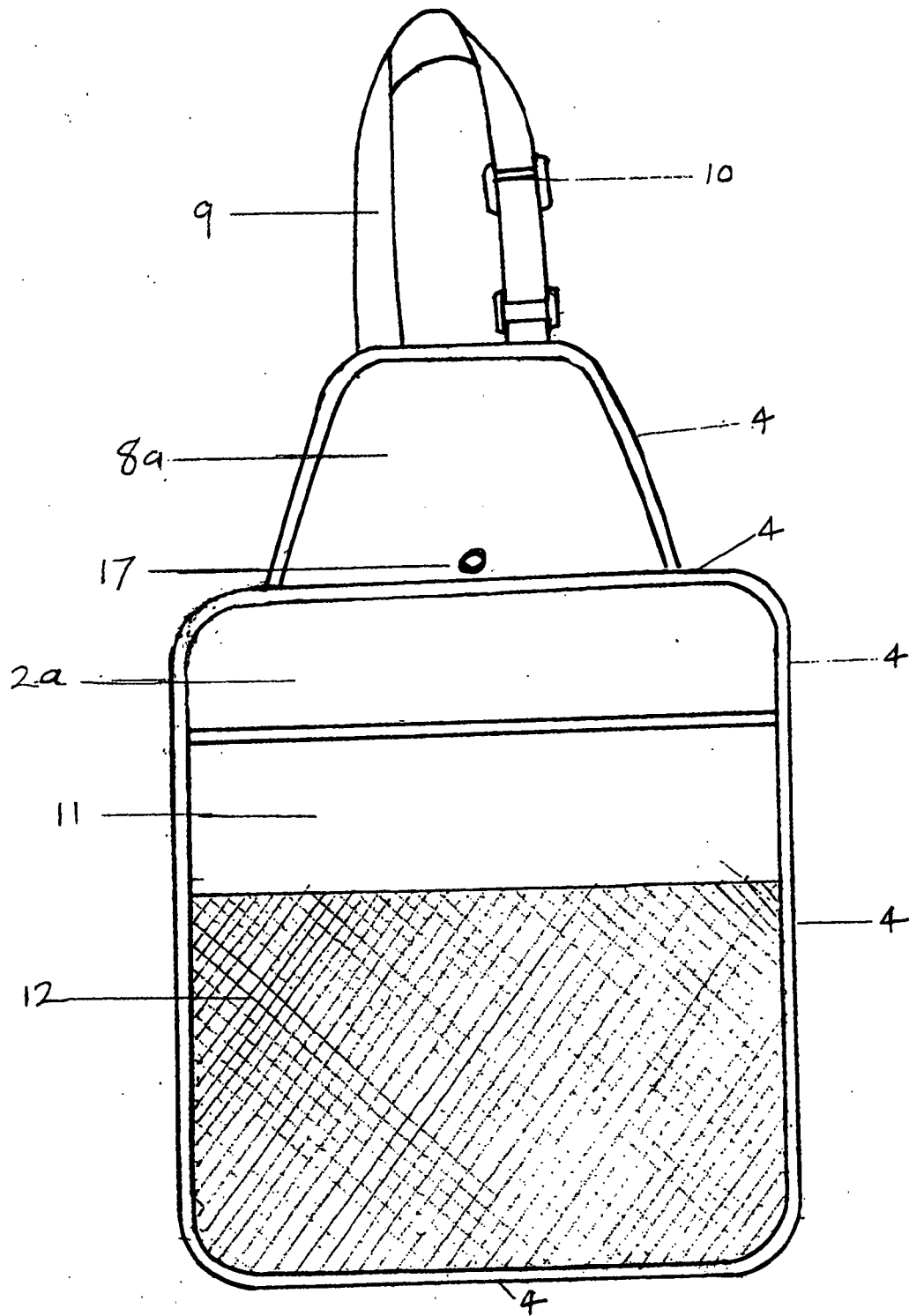


Fig 3

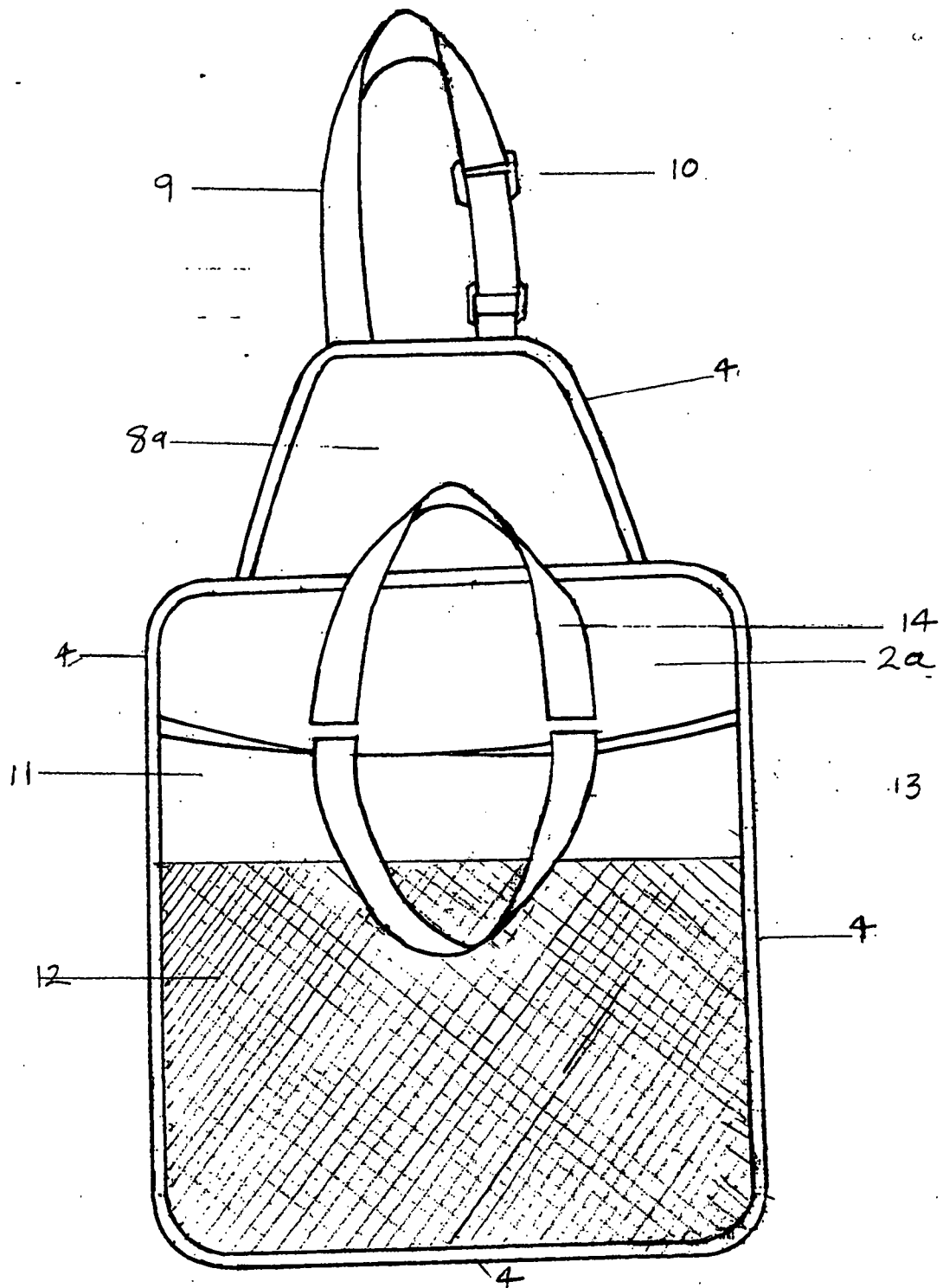


Fig 4

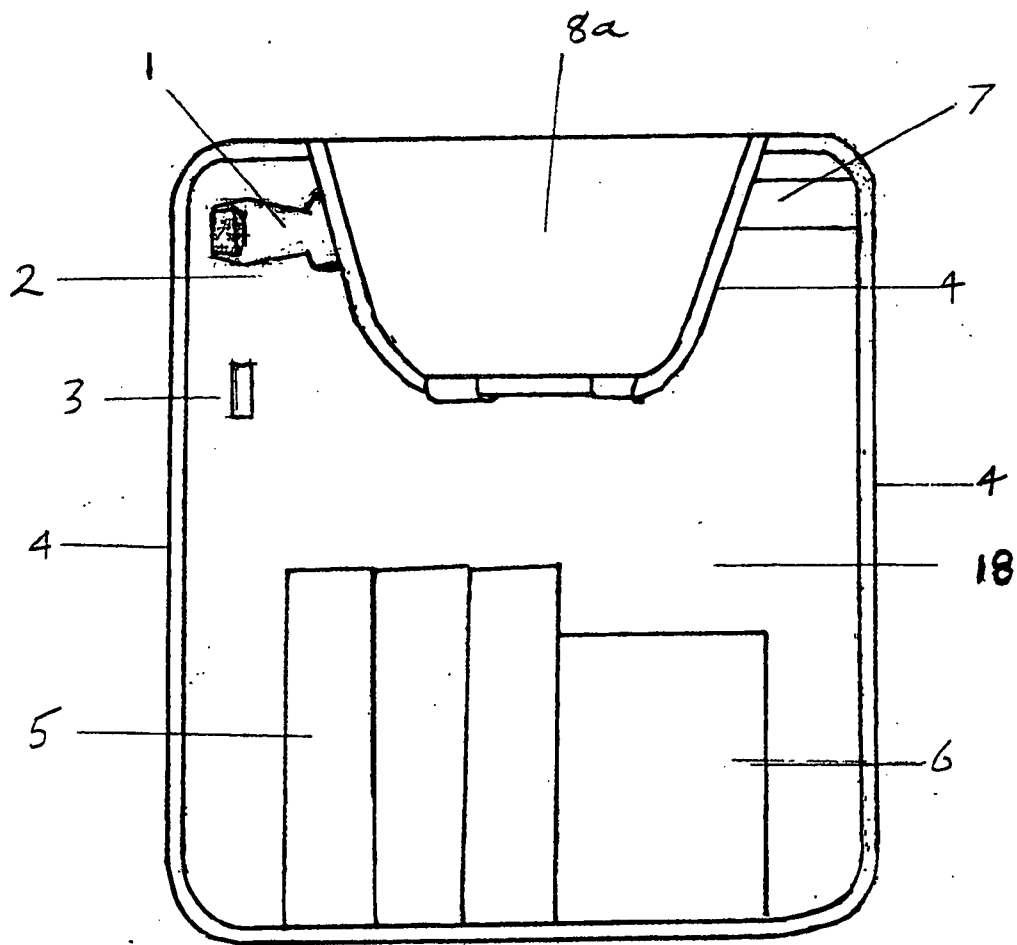


Fig 5

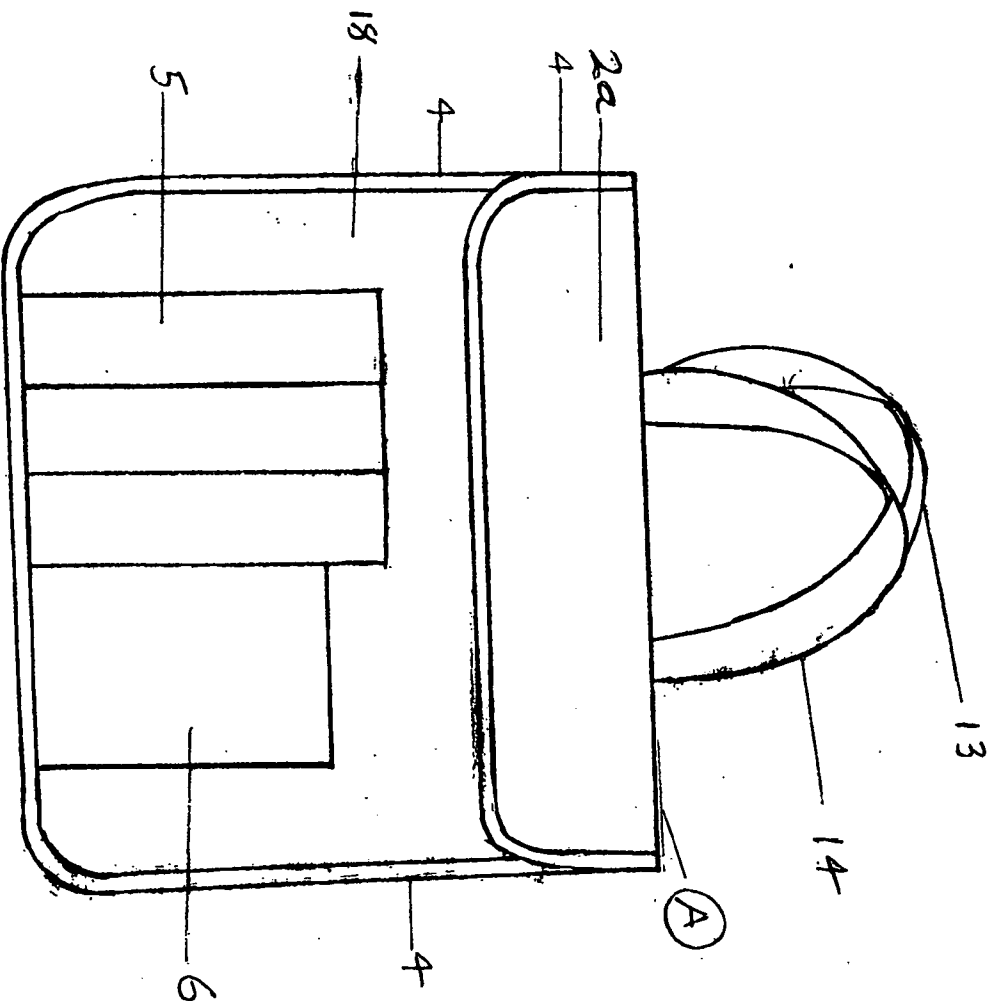




Fig 6

