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(54) Golf Bags and Methods of Assembling Golf Bags

(57) A golf bag which can be easily assembled including a top collar member, a moulded bottom end member, a flexible body interconnecting the top collar member and the bottom end member, a partitioning member and stays interconnecting the partitioning member and the bottom end member. The top collar member includes a border portion defining an aperture for receiving golf clubs, the partitioning member includes a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing the aperture into a plurality of sections, the partitioning member includes fastening means for engagement with corresponding fastening means on said top collar member, the partitioning member and the bottom end member include corresponding retention means for receiving said stays.

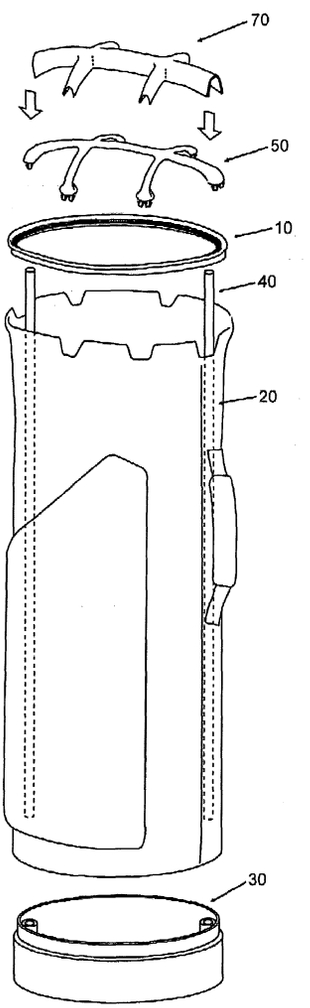


Fig 10A

EP 1 391 224 A1

Description

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to carrying bags and, more particularly, to carrying bags with an elongated flexible body supported by longitudinally extending stays, such as golf bags. More specifically, although of course not limited thereto, this invention relates to golf bags in semi-knocked down kit forms, to methods of assembling golf bags from semi-knocked down kits and to golf bags assembled from such semi-knocked down kit forms.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Golf is a very popular outdoor sporting game which is played on a golf course. In playing a golf game, different golf clubs, for example, woods, irons and putters, are usually required to impart an optimal drive to the ball and to hit the golf ball towards and into a hole during the various phases of a golf game.

[0003] Golf clubs are usually kept together in a golf bag for easy storage and convenient transportation to and from golf courses and between holes. Golf bags are usually designed to allow easy and quick retrieval of the various clubs during a game. A typical golf bag is an elongate bag with a rigid moulded top collar and a closed moulded bottom member at its longitudinal ends together with a circumferential enclosure extending between the top collar and the bottom member. The top collar is usually supported from the bottom member by a plurality of rigid stays which are usually distributed around the edge of the bottom member and which are typically rigid plastic posts extending between the top collar and the bottom member.

[0004] Golf clubs are usually stored in a golf bag with the club heads protruding above a cushioned partitioning member formed on the top collar and with the handles resting on the upper surface of the bottom member. As the bottom member has to bear almost all the weight of golf clubs, it must be reasonably strong and is usually a moulded piece made of hard plastics. To avoid the handles from rocking about in the bottom of a golf bag during transportation or from entangling with each other which may cause damage, breakage or undesirable scratches, good golf bags are always formed with a number of small compartments which are small enough to limit excessive and undesirable movement of the clubs.

[0005] The compartments are generally formed by flexible partitioning or dividing straps which are taut and which extend between the moulded top collar member and the moulded bottom member of a golf bag. To provide for a framework of compartments, a rigid partitioning member forming a grid of rigid ridges which defines the peripheral walls of the compartments is usually formed across the aperture defined by the top collar member. The flexible straps are usually made, for example, of fabric. Nylon or polyester are preferred because they are light and friendly to the shafts of golf clubs.

[0006] Golf bags are usually transported in their complete or finished form from manufacturers to distributors and then to the end users or consumers. As a typical golf bag generally includes a hollow and substantially cylindrical body with the top collar member defining the general cross section with the longitudinal length approximately equal to the length of the golf clubs, golf bags are generally very bulky and are relatively expensive to transport, even though they are not particularly heavy. The high transportation costs are particularly noticeable when finished golf bags are transported by containers, courier, air freight in which case the transportation costs are generally proportional to the volume of the goods being delivered.

[0007] Furthermore, golfers or golf bag users generally find it very inconvenient when they have to transport golf bags from one place to another, for example, between home and golf courses, because of the bulkiness of the golf bag. As a result, when a few golfers are travelling together on road for golf playing, cars with relatively a large storage space must be selected to accommodate the golf bags.

[0008] Hence, it will be desirable if golf bags can be made into kit forms, such as semi-knocked down kit forms, which can be easily assembled without undue complexities and the need of specific tools. To facilitate easy transportation and handling by users, it will be highly desirable if there can be provided golf bags which can be collapsed and re-assembled without unduly complicated efforts and tools

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

[0009] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide golf bags in semi-knocked down kit forms which can be assembled without undue difficulty and without specific tools. It is also an object of the present invention to provide golf bags which are easily collapsible and can be easily assembled and reassembled to facilitate easy and convenient transportation. Of course, it is desirable that golf bags fulfilling the aforesaid objective should retain the general robustness characteristic of presently available golf bags. Accordingly, it is also an object of the present invention to provide methods of collapsing assembling and reassembling golf bags of the aforesaid description.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] Accordingly, there is provided a golf bag including a top end member, a bottom end member, a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, a partitioning member and a plurality of stays interconnecting said partitioning mem-

ber and said bottom end member, said top end member including a top collar member and a partitioning member, said top collar member including a border portion defining an aperture for receiving golf clubs, said partitioning member including a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said top end member and said bottom end member including corresponding retention means for receiving said stays, characterized in that said partitioning member including fastening means for engagement with corresponding fastening means on said top collar member.

[0011] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a golf bag including a top collar member, a bottom end member, a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, an intermediate sub-assembly including a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of stays interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said top collar member includes a border portion defining an aperture for receiving golf clubs, said partitioning member includes a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said partitioning member includes fastening means for engagement with corresponding fastening means on said top collar member, at least a substantial portion of said intermediate sub-assembly is surrounded by said flexible body with said intermediate member disposed adjacent to said bottom end member when said partitioning means is engaged with said top collar member.

[0012] According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a golf bag including a first sub-assembly and a second sub-assembly, said first sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom member; said second sub-assembly includes a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of stays interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said top collar member includes a border portion defining an aperture for receiving golf clubs, said partitioning member includes a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said partitioning member includes fastening means for corresponding engagement with fastening means on said top collar member, said second sub-assembly is substantially received by said first sub-assembly with at least a substantial length of said stays of said second sub-assembly being surrounded by said flexible body when said partitioning member is engaged with said top collar member of said first sub-assembly.

[0013] According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of assembling a golf bag from a semi-knocked down kit including an outer sub-assembly, an inner sub-assembly and a plurality of stays, said outer sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom end member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, said inner sub-assembly includes a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of flexible partitioning straps interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said partitioning member and said intermediate base member include corresponding fastening means for engaging said plurality of stays in a substantially parallel manner, said method including:

- connecting said stays to said inner sub-assembly so that said partitioning member and said intermediate base member are interconnected by said stays,
- inserting said intermediate member into said flexible body and towards said bottom member,
- fastening said partitioning member with said moulded to collar member,

said first sub-assembly and said second sub-assembly being connected by fastening engagement between said partitioning member of said second sub-assembly and said top collar member of said first sub-assembly, said intermediate base member of said second sub-assembly being disposed adjacent to said bottom member of said first sub-assembly.

[0014] According to yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a semi-knocked down kit of a golf bag including an outer sub-assembly, an inner sub-assembly and a plurality of stays, said outer sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom end member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, said inner sub-assembly includes a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of flexible partitioning straps interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said partitioning member and said intermediate base member include corresponding fastening means for engaging said plurality of stays in a substantially parallel manner.

[0015] According to yet another aspect for the present invention, there is provided a semi-knocked down kit of a golf bag including an outer sub-assembly, a partitioning member and a plurality of stays, said outer sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom end member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, said partitioning member includes a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said partitioning member includes fastening means for engagement with corresponding fastening means on said top collar member, said partitioning member and said bottom end member include corresponding fastening means for engaging said plurality of stays in a substantially parallel manner.

[0016] Broadly speaking, the present invention has provided a top end member of a golf bag including a

partitioning member and a top rim member, said partitioning member includes a partitioning grid structure and retention means for receiving one end of the stays of a golf bag, said partitioning member and said top rim member being formed with corresponding engagement means.

[0017] Probably, delimiting means are provided on said top rim member immediately adjacent to said engagement means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be explained by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1A shows a top plan view of a first preferred embodiment of a top collar member for a preferred embodiment of golf bags of the present invention,

Fig. 1 B shows a top plan view of a second preferred embodiment of a top collar member for another preferred embodiment of golf bags of the present invention,

Fig. 2 shows an example of a flexible body suitable for the preferred embodiments of golf bags of the present invention,

Fig. 3A shows an example of a suitable moulded bottom member for use with a first preferred embodiment of the present invention,

Fig. 3B shows an example of a suitable moulded bottom member for use with a second preferred embodiment of the present invention,

Fig. 4 shows an example of stays for preferred embodiments of the present invention,

Fig. 5A illustrates an example of a preferred partitioning member or partitioning grid,

Fig. 5B illustrates the step of attaching the partitioning member of Fig. 5A to the top collar member,

Fig. 5C shows an enlarged view from the underside of the top collar member illustrating the connection between the partitioning member and the top collar member,

Fig. 5D shows the connection between the partitioning member and the top collar member of Fig. 5C from above the top collar member,

Fig. 5E illustrates the attaching of a second preferred embodiment of the partitioning member to the top collar member of Figure 1B,

Fig. 6A illustrates the flexible enclosure or body of Fig. 2 with a moulded bottom member attached to its lower end,

Fig. 6B illustrates the flexible body of Fig. 6A with a moulded top collar member of Fig. 1A attached to its upper end,

Fig. 6C illustrates the flexible body of Fig. 6A with a moulded top collar member of Fig. 1 B attached to its upper end,

Fig. 7A illustrates the forming of a first preferred embodiment of a golf bag of this invention by attaching a partitioning member and stays to the sub-assembly of Fig. 6B,

Fig. 7B illustrates in partly exposed form the resulting assembly of Fig. 7A,

Fig. 7C illustrates the forming of a first preferred embodiment of a golf bag of this invention by attaching a partitioning member of Figure 5E and stays to the sub-assembly of Fig. 6C,

Fig. 7D illustrates in partly exposed from the resulting assembly of Fig. 7C,

Fig. 8A shows a semi-sub-assembly with the partitioning member of Fig. 5A connected to an intermediate base member via a plurality of flexible straps.

Fig. 8B illustrates the attachment of substantially rigid stay members to the semi-sub-assembly of Fig. 8A to form a sub-assembly,

Fig. 9A illustrates the insertion of the sub-assembly of Fig. 8B into the sub-assembly of Fig. 6B,

Fig. 9B illustrates in partly exposed form the completed assembly of Fig. 9A,

Fig. 10A illustrates in exploded form the golf bag of a first preferred embodiment of the present invention,

Fig. 10B illustrates in exploded form a second preferred embodiment of a golf bag of the present invention,

Fig. 11A illustrates an alternative form of a top collar member with a corresponding flexible enclosure body,

Fig. 11B illustrates the parts of Fig. 11A when assembled,

Fig. 12A illustrates the parts of Fig. 11B assembled

with the partitioning member, and

Fig. 12B illustrates the parts of Fig. 12A assembled with a pair of pivotal legs.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0019] Some of the basic building parts or components that are utilized to build golf bags from preferred embodiments of the present invention are shown in Figs. 1-6.

[0020] Fig. 1A shows a first preferred embodiment of a top collar member **10** for connection to the upper end of a flexible body **20** of a golf bag. This top collar member **10** is substantially rigid and is preferably moulded from hard plastics and includes a rim **11** or border portion defining the top most aperture of a golf bag for receiving golf clubs. A plurality of fastening or coupling apertures **12** are distributed along the perimeter of this moulded top collar member **10** for connecting to a partitioning member **50** to form the top end member of the golf bag of the present invention. Detailed construction and utilization of the top collar member **10** and the partitioning member **50** to be explained below.

[0021] A second preferred embodiment of the top collar member **10** shown in Fig. 1B includes a plurality of a stay receiving means disposed at positions corresponding to the stay receiving means on the bottom end member so that the stays interconnecting the top end member and the bottom end member of the golf bag are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body of the golf back. The stay receiving means on the top collar member **10** are preferably integrally moulded with the top collar member **10** for increased strength and simplicity in assembling. The stay receiving means can be, for example, channels extending towards the bottom end member so that the top end of the stays can be inserted into them by upward longitudinal stretching of the flexible body of the golf bag. Alternatively, the stay receiving channels may be provided with a longitudinal aperture dimensioned to be suitable for secured lateral snap-fitting with the top end of a stay.

[0022] Fig. 2 shows an elongated flexible body which can be made of, for example, fabrics, leather, nylon, polyester or other suitable flexible materials. The flexible body **20** is a generally hollow cylindrical body with an upper aperture **21**, a lower aperture **22** and a flexible enclosure extending in a generally longitudinal direction and surrounding the upper and lower apertures.

[0023] Fig. 3A shows a bottom end member **30** for attaching to the lower end of the cylindrical flexible body and for closing off the bottom aperture of the flexible body **20**. The bottom end member **30** generally includes a closed bottom part with an upstanding peripheral wall surrounding the closed bottom. The upstanding peripheral wall **31** includes a stepped circumferential portion defining a flange **32** from which a further secondary upstanding circumferential wall **33** extends.

[0024] Usually, the bottom end member **30** is attached to the lower end of the flexible body by connecting the secondary peripheral wall, for example, through sewing or other appropriate fastening means. Upon connection, the lower end of the flexible body will rest on the stepped flange portion **32** with a smooth transition and continuity between the lower end of the flexible body to the upper edge of the primary circumferential peripheral wall **31** of the bottom end member **30**. This bottom end member **30** is preferably moulded from a strong and hard plastic material as it has to bear the weight to the golf clubs.

[0025] A plurality of retention means **34** are formed on the upper surface of the bottom part of this bottom end member **30.** The retention means **34** is formed in the form of an upstanding channel extending along the longitudinal direction of the flexible body **20** so that the stays can be received in a substantially upright orientation. The stay receiving channels are preferably dimensioned so that it receives one end of a stay member in a close-fitting manner with sufficient stability. For example, the stay receiving channels **34** can be formed with internal screw threads while the corresponding end of the stays can be formed with appropriately dimensioned external screw threads for screw engagement so that the stays are securely supported and extending generally in the longitudinal orientation.

[0026] Examples of suitable stays **40** are shown in Fig. 4. The stays **40** are preferably made of a rigid and strong material such as hard plastics or a light metal alloy such as aluminium alloys. The stays in the present preferred embodiments have non-threaded ends for easy insertion. To provide more secure stays retention, screw threads may be provided at both ends of the stays for screw-threaded engagement with the corresponding fastening means. For example, the screw-threads at the ends of the stays may be threaded so that the partitioning member **50** and the bottom end member **30** are drawn together while the stays **40** are being tightened.

[0027] Fig. 5 shows an example of a preferred partitioning member **50** for use in the present embodiment. This partitioning member **50** includes a plurality of interconnected rib-shaped members defining a grid forming a plurality of partitioning sections or compartments for receiving golf clubs. The present partitioning member **50** includes a longitudinal rib-shaped member **51** connected with a plurality of transversally rib-shaped members **52** which are distributed along the length of the longitudinal rib member **51** and forming a plurality of cross junctions. Of course, the partitioning member **50** can be formed with partitioning grids including grids of various shapes and configurations as desired and appropriate. Fastening or engagement means are formed at the ends of the rib-shaped members. The fastening means shown in the present preferred embodiment includes a pair of resilient legs with an inverted hook disposed near the end of each leg.

[0028] Retention means **55**, which are in the form of

downwardly extending stays receiving channels, are formed on the under side of the partitioning means for secure and taut retention of the stays when the partitioning member **50** has been fastened to the top collar member **10** to form the top end member of the golf bag.

[0029] It will be appreciated that the fastening or coupling apertures **12** or fastening means distributed on the top collar member **10** allow enhanced flexibility for fastening engagement so that partitioning members having different disposition or distribution of fastening means can be matched and fastened to the top collar member **10** to form a top end member of the golf bag. This design allows partitioning members having different grid layouts and/or with different fastening means disposition to be mixed and matched with the top collar member **10**. Thus, a user possessing a plurality of partitioning members compatible to a specific top collar member can select a preferred or desirable partitioning member to form a golf bag according to his/her preferences or need.

[0030] Referring now to Figs. 6A and 6B, a first sub-assembly or an outer-assembly **100** as an intermediate part for forming a golf bag is made by connecting the upper end of the bottom end member **30** to the lower end of the flexible body **20**. This can be made, for example, by sewing or fastening the lower end of the flexible body **20** to the secondary peripheral wall **33** which extends upwardly from the stepped circumferential flange **32.** The top collar member **10** is attached to the upper end of the flexible body **20** by, for example, wrapping a portion of the upper end of the flexible body **20** around the border or rim portion and then by fastening or retaining the top collar member **10** through sewing or other fastening means. Appropriate apertures are preformed on the upper end of the flexible body **20** so that the fastening apertures provided on the top collar member **10** for fastening with the corresponding fastening means on the partitioning member **50** can be easily located or accessible. With the attachment of the top collar member **10** and bottom end member **30** respectively to the upper and lower ends of the flexible body **20**, a first sub-assembly **100** or an outer-assembly of a golf bag is formed.

[0031] Fig. 6C shows a first sub-assembly similar to that of Fig. 6B but using a top collar member of Fig. 1B.

[0032] Referring to Figs. 7A, 7B and 10A, there is shown a first preferred embodiment of a golf bag 1 of the present invention. It will be noted that the bottom end member **30** of this golf bag includes a moulded bottom end member as shown in Fig. 3A which includes a plurality of stay retention means **34** on the bottom end member **30**. To assemble this golf bag, the stays **40** are inserted into the stay receiving means **34** on the bottom end member **30**, which are upwardly extending stay receiving channels in the present example. The other ends of the stays **40** are coupled to the stay retention means **55** disposed correspondingly on the underside of the partitioning member **50.** The stay retention means **34, 55** on both the partitioning member **50** and the bottom end member **30** are preferably dimensioned so that the stays are properly secured when the partitioning member **50** are secured onto the fastening apertures **12** disposed along the rim **11** of the top collar member **10**. The stay retention means **34, 55** in the present embodiment are longitudinally extending channels with a sufficient depth so that the stays **40** can be securely retained by the channels in a substantially upright direction. As such, the stays are generally parallel to the longitudinal direction of the elongated golf bag when assembled.

[0033] It will be noted that the pre-cuttings or the preformed apertures **23** on the upper end of the flexible enclosure **20** will expose the necessary corresponding fastening apertures **12** on the top collar member **10** for corresponding engagement with the fastening means formed at the end of the rib-shaped members **51, 52**. The provision of the pre-cut portions **23** on the flexible body **20** allows easy alignment and access of the fastening apertures and therefore facilitates easy and accurate assembling. The partitioning members **50** can be securely attached and held on the top collar member **10** by the inverted hooks at the end of the bifurcated legs and this attachment helps to pull and maintain taut the flexible body **20**. It will be appreciated that the flexible body **20** generally surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the stays when assembled.

[0034] To facilitate easy alignment of the pre-formed apertures **23** with the fastening apertures **12** on the top collar member **10,** delimiting means **13** are provided on the top collar member. The delimiting means utilized in the present preferred embodiments are studs or bolts **13** which occupy the apertures of the top collar member immediately adjacent to the fastening apertures. These delimiting studs or bolts **23** are disposed corresponding to the locations of pre-cut apertures **23** and the fastening means **53**.

[0035] When a golfer or a golf bag user wishes to transport a golf bag in a less bulky manner, the golf bag can be dis-assembled by detaching the stays from the partitioning member or the top end member of the complete golf bag. This will substantially reduce the volume of the golf bag for transportation. Of course, the golf bag can be easily re-assembled as and when desired.

[0036] Figs. 7C and 7D show another example of a first preferred embodiment of a golf bag of the present invention, although a second preferred embodiment of a top collar member of Fig. 1 B is used in this example.

[0037] A second preferred embodiment of the golf bag **2** of the present invention is shown in Fig. 10B with the various parts for constructing or making of this embodiment shown in Figs. 8A to 9B. In general, a golf bag of this second preferred embodiment includes a first or outer sub-assembly **100** of Fig. 6A and a second or inner sub-assembly **200**. The second or inner sub-assembly **200** includes a partitioning member **50**, an intermediate base member and stays **40** connecting them. The intermediate base member **60** is a rigid member, for exam-

ple, a plate-shaped member, dimensioned to be received on the upper part of the bottom end member **30**. The partitioning member **50** and the intermediate base member **60** are interconnected with flexible straps **56** for forming the various compartments for golf clubs storage. The flexible straps **56** are preferably made of a flexible and yet robust material such as nylon or polyester. The length of the flexible straps are preferably calculated so that the flexible straps are substantially taut when the stays **40** are connected and held between the partitioning member **50** and the intermediate base member **60**. The straps may be fastened to the partitioning member **50** and the intermediate base member **60** by sewing or by means of detachable fastening means such as Velcro®.

[0038] Stay retention means **61** are also formed on the upper surface of the intermediate base member **60** and the retention means **61** are disposed in an aligned member so that corresponding stay receiving means on the partitioning member **50** are directly above that on the intermediate base member **60.** The semi-sub-assembly (comprising the partitioning member **50**, straps **56** and the intermediate base member **60**) is then connected with stays so that an inner-sub-assembly with a generally robust and rigid structure supported by the stays **40** are formed. This inner-sub-assembly is then inserted into the first sub-assembly **100** of Fig. 6A with the under-surface of the intermediate base member **60** inserted inside the flexible body **20** and towards the upper surface of the bottom end member **30.**

[0039] The length of the stays are preferably designed so that when the intermediate base member **60** is resting on the upper surface of the bottom end member **30,** the fastening means on the partitioning members will at that time securely fasten onto the fastening apertures of the top collar member **10.** Hence, by the insertion of this inner sub-assembly **200** into the outer sub-assembly **100,** a golf bag has been assembled. It will be appreciated that this design allows the assembling of a generally robust golf bags in an easy way without the need of any specific tools so that golfers or golf bag users can assemble or reassemble the golf bags as and when desired or necessary.

[0040] Referring to Figs. 11A, 11B, 12A and 12B, there is shown the assembling of a golf bag 3 with a pair of pivotal legs embodying the present invention. It will be appreciated that by suitable modification of the top collar member by including a pair of attachment means or brackets for receiving a pair of pivotal legs, a pair of pivotal stands for supporting the golf bag in a generally right position can be easily assembled and dis-assembled. Referring to Fig. 11A, it will be appreciated that the attachment means are preferably moulded on a peripheral wall extending generally longitudinally along part of the circumference of the top collar member. The attachment means generally extend in a radial manner and protrude beyond the flexible enclosure **20.** To provide outlets for the pair of attachment means to be exposed, corresponding apertures are formed on the flexible body as shown in Figs. 11A and 11B.

[0041] Furthermore, to protect the shaft of golf clubs, a cushioning material **70** is preferably wrapped around the rib-shaped members as shown in Figs. 11A and 11B.

[0042] While the present invention has been explained by reference to the preferred embodiments described above, it will be appreciated that the embodiments are only examples provided to illustrate the present invention and are not meant to be restrictive on the scope and spirit of the present invention. This invention should be determined from the general principles and spirit of the invention as described above. In particular, variations or modifications which are obvious or trivial to persons skilled in the art, as well as improvements made on the basis of the present invention, should be considered as falling within the scope and boundary of the present invention. Furthermore, while the present invention has been explained by reference to certain basic parts, it should be appreciated that the invention can apply, whether with or without modification, to golf bags apart from all or a selection only of the parts described with loss of generality.

Reference Number List

[0043]

1	golf bag of 1st embodiment
2	golf bag of 2nd embodiment
3	golf bag with a stand
10	top collar member
11	rim
12	fastening apertures
13	delimiting means for fastening aperture
20	flexible body
21	upper aperture
23	pre-cut aperture for exposing fastening apertures **22**
22	lower aperture
30	bottom end member
31	primary peripheral wall
32	flange
33	secondary peripheral wall
34	stay receiving channel
40	stay
50	partitioning member
51	longitudinal rib
52	transversal rib
53	fastening means
55	stay receiving channel
56	flexible partitioning straps
60	intermediate base member
61	stay retention means
70	cushioning on partitioning member
100	outer sub-assembly
200	inner sub-assembly

Claims

1. A golf bag including a top end member, a bottom end member, a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, a partitioning member and a plurality of stays interconnecting said partitioning member and said bottom end member, said top end member including a top collar member and a partitioning member, said top collar member including a border portion defining an aperture for receiving golf clubs, said partitioning member including a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said top end member and said bottom end member including corresponding retention means for receiving said stays, **characterized in that** said partitioning member including fastening means for engagement with corresponding fastening means on said top collar member.

2. A golf bag of claim 1, **characterized in that** said corresponding retention means are disposed on said partitioning member of said top end member and said bottom end member, said corresponding retention means are disposed so that said stays are generally parallel to each other and to the longitudinal axis of said golf bag when received by said retention means.

3. A golf bag of claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** said corresponding retention means are disposed on said top collar member of said top end member and said bottom end member, said corresponding retention means are disposed so that said stays are generally parallel to each other and to the longitudinal axis of said golf bag when received by said retention means.

4. A golf bag according to any one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** said retention means include longitudinal extending channels for receiving the ends of said stays.

5. A golf bag according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said retention means on said partitioning member for engaging said stays include channels disposed on the underside of said partitioning means.

6. A golf bag according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said grid structure of said partitioning member includes a plurality of interconnected rib-shaped members with fastening means for engagement with said top collar member formed at the ends of said rib-shaped members.

7. A golf bag according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said fastening means include snap-fit fasteners.

8. A golf bag according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said fastener means at the end of said rib-shaped members include a pair of bifurcated legs which are resiliently movable towards each other when subject to a compressive force towards each other, each said leg having an inverted hook member.

9. A golf bag including a top collar member, a bottom end member, a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, an intermediate sub-assembly including a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of stays interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said top collar member includes a border portion defining an aperture for receiving golf clubs, said partitioning member includes a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said partitioning member includes fastening means for engagement with corresponding fastening means on said top collar member, at least a substantial portion of said intermediate sub-assembly is surrounded by said flexible body with said intermediate member disposed adjacent to said bottom end member when said partitioning means is engaged with said top collar member.

10. A golf bag of claim 9, **characterized in that** said partitioning member and said intermediate base member include corresponding retention means for engaging said stays such that the stays are disposed generally parallel to the longitudinal direction of said golf bag.

11. A golf bag of claim 9, **characterized in that** said grid structure of said partitioning member includes a plurality of interconnected rib-shaped members with fastening means formed at the ends of said rib-shaped members.

12. A golf bag according to any one of claims 9-11, **characterized in that** said fastening means include snap-fit fasteners.

13. A golf bag including a first sub-assembly and a second sub-assembly, said first sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom member; said second sub-assembly includes a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of stays interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said top collar member includes a border portion defining an aperture for receiving golf clubs, said partitioning member includes a substan-

tially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said partitioning member includes fastening means for corresponding engagement with fastening means on said top collar member, said second sub-assembly is substantially received by said first sub-assembly with at least a substantial length of said stays of said second sub-assembly being surrounded by said flexible body when said partitioning member is engaged with said top collar member of said first sub-assembly.

14. A golf bag of claim 13, wherein said second sub-assembly is substantially received by said first sub-assembly with at least a substantial length of said stays of said second sub-assembly being surrounded by said flexible body when said partitioning member is engaged with said top collar member of said first sub-assembly.

15. A golf bag of claim 13, wherein said flexible body is made substantially taut by said stays when said first sub-assembly and said second sub-assembly are in fastening engagement with said intermediate base member disposed inside said flexible body and adjacent to said bottom member.

16. A semi-knocked down kit of a golf bag including an outer sub-assembly, an inner sub-assembly and a plurality of stays, said outer sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom end member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, said inner sub-assembly includes a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of flexible partitioning straps interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said partitioning member and said intermediate base member include corresponding fastening means for engaging said plurality of stays in a substantially parallel manner.

17. A semi-knocked down kit of a golf bag including an outer sub-assembly, a partitioning member and a plurality of stays, said outer sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom end member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, said partitioning member includes a substantially rigid grid structure for dividing said aperture into a plurality of sections, said partitioning member includes fastening means for engagement with corresponding fastening means on said top collar member, said partitioning member and said bottom end member include corresponding fastening means for engaging said plurality of stays in a substantially parallel manner.

18. A method of assembling a golf bag from a semi-knocked down kit including an outer sub-assembly, an inner sub-assembly and a plurality of stays, said outer sub-assembly includes a top collar member, a bottom end member and a flexible body interconnecting said top collar member and said bottom end member, said inner sub-assembly includes a partitioning member, an intermediate base member and a plurality of flexible partitioning straps interconnecting said partitioning member and said intermediate base member, said partitioning member and said intermediate base member include corresponding fastening means for engaging said plurality of stays in a substantially parallel manner, said method including:

- connecting said stays to said inner sub-assembly so that said partitioning member and said intermediate base member are interconnected by said stays,
- inserting said intermediate member into said flexible body and towards said bottom member,
- fastening said partitioning member with said moulded to collar member,

said first sub-assembly and said second sub-assembly being connected by fastening engagement between said partitioning member of said second sub-assembly and said top collar member of said first sub-assembly, said intermediate base member of said second sub-assembly being disposed adjacent to said bottom member of said first sub-assembly.

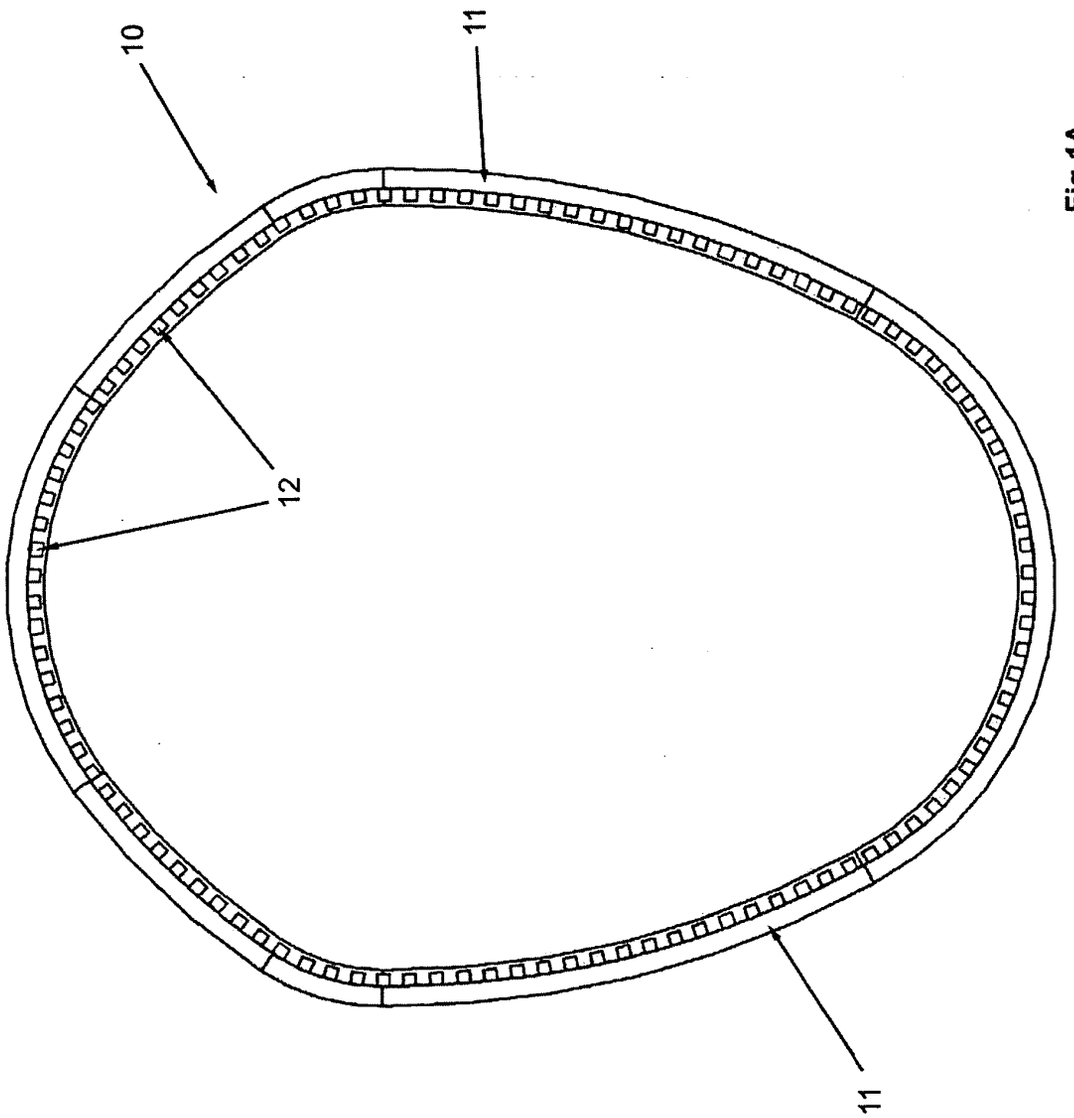


Fig 1A

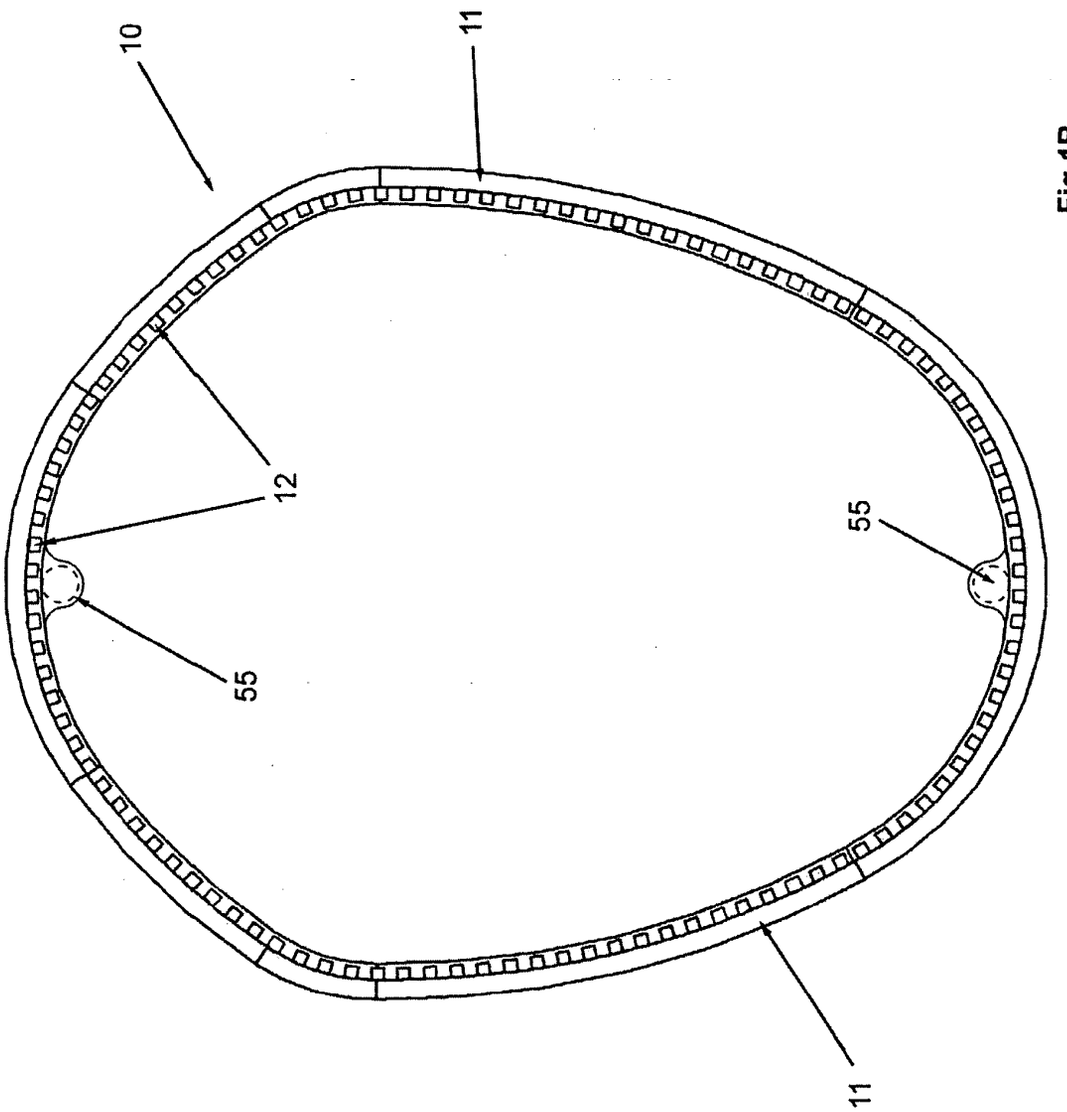


Fig 1B

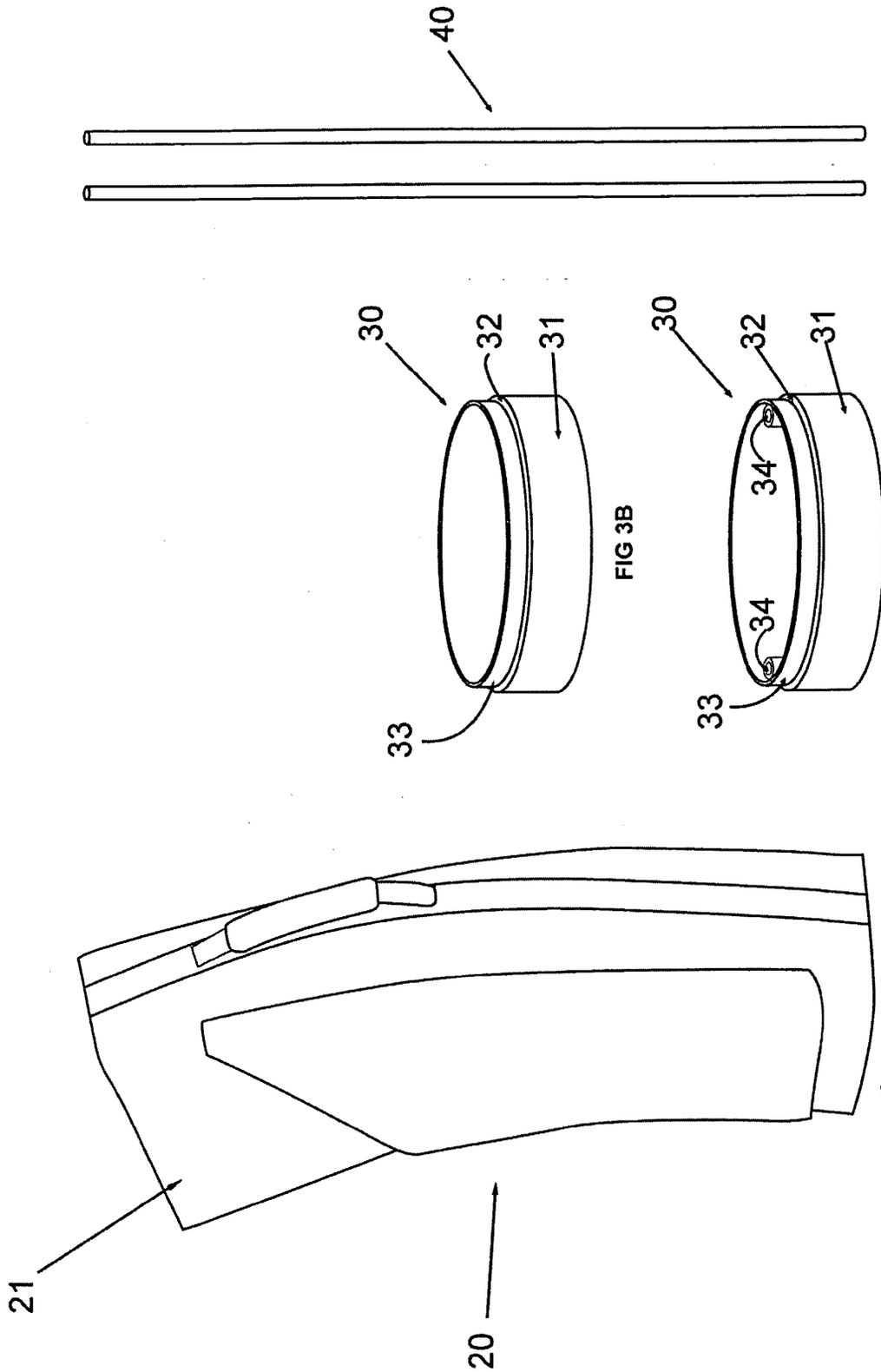


Fig 2

FIG 3B

Fig 3A

STAYS

Fig 4

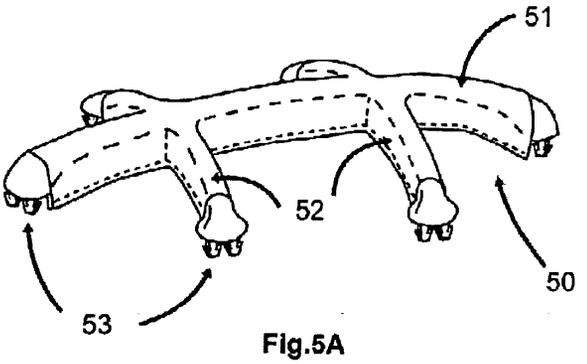


Fig.5A

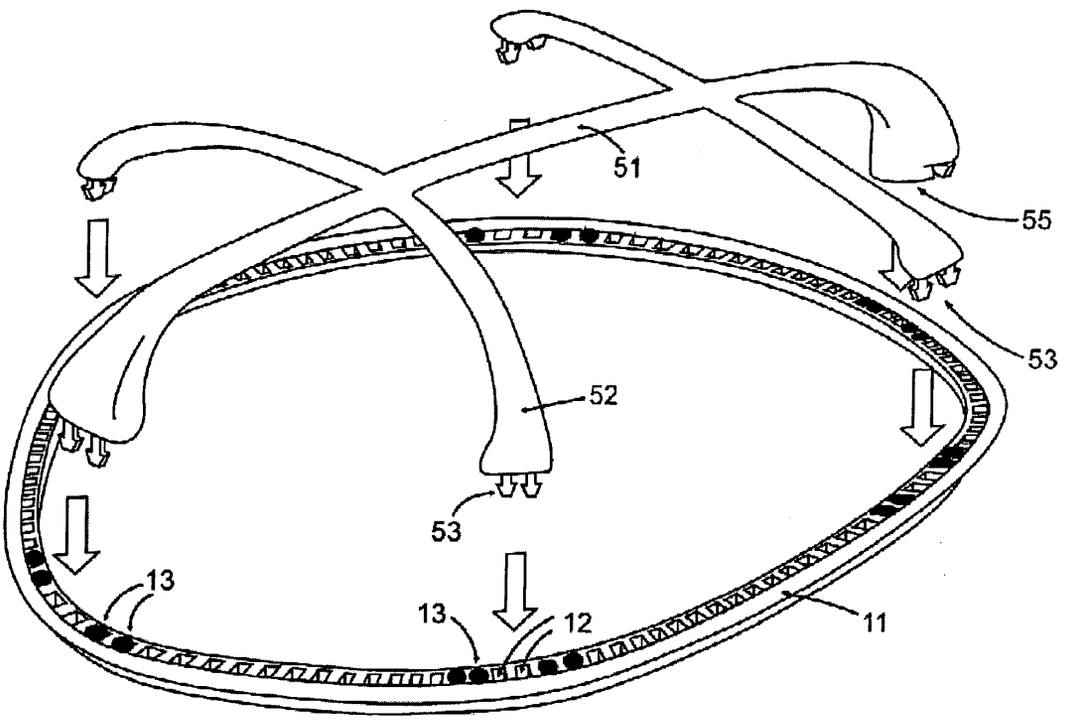


Fig.5B

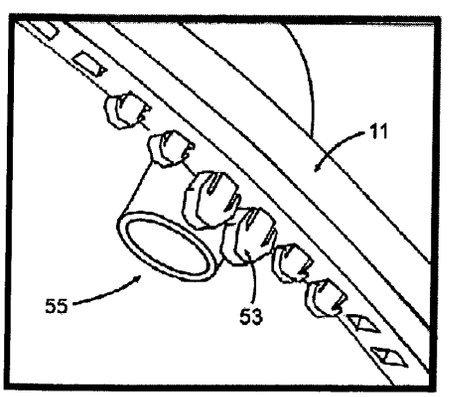


Fig.5C

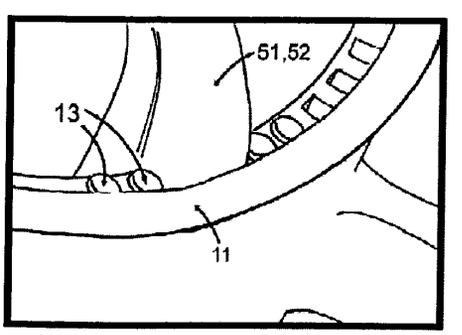


Fig.5D

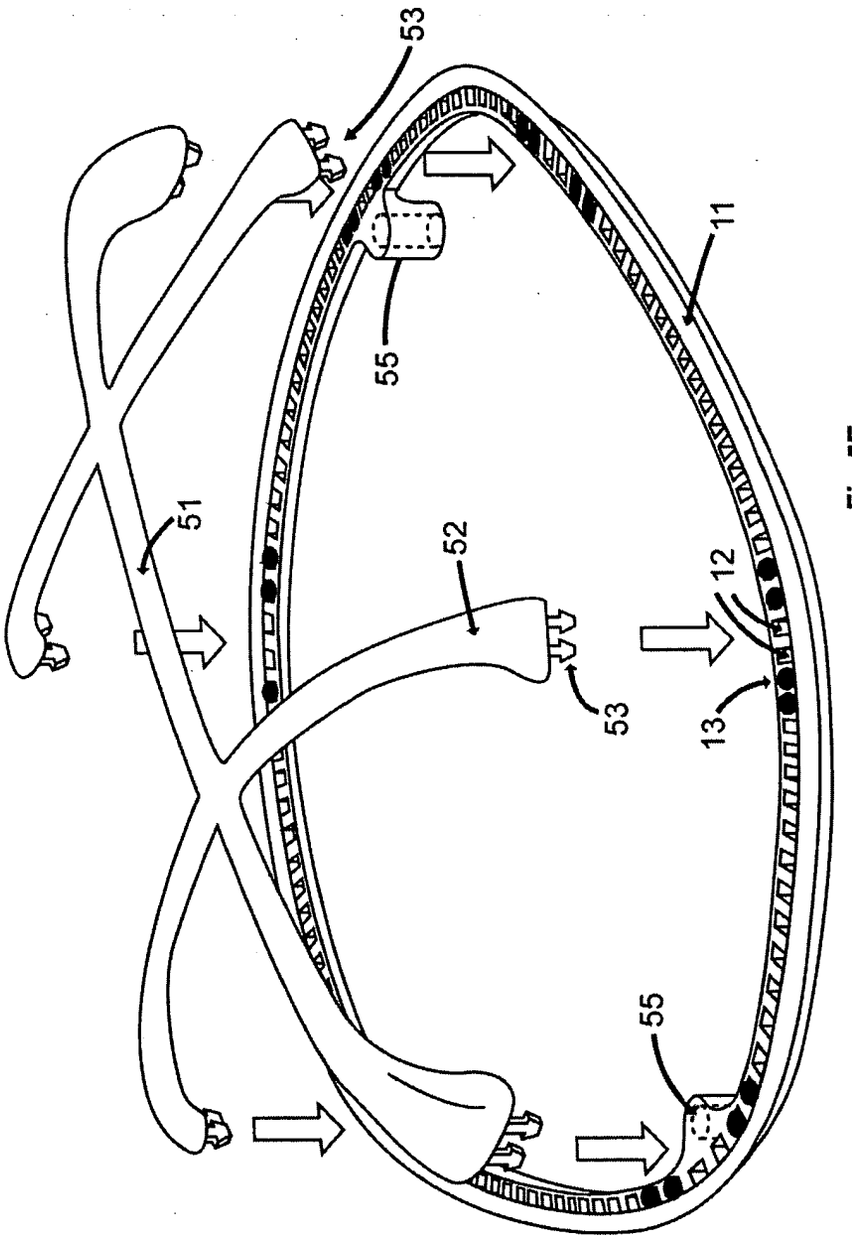


Fig.5E

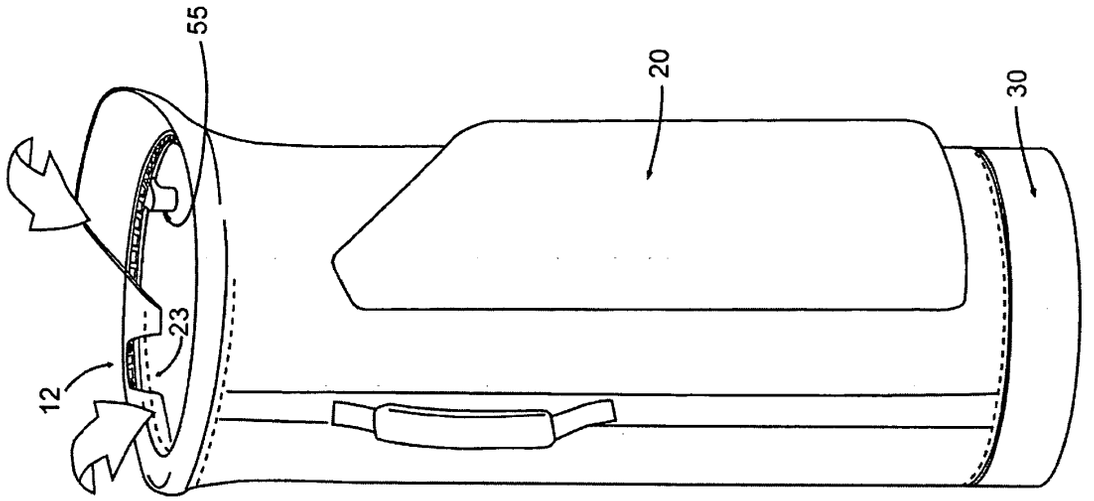


Fig. 6C

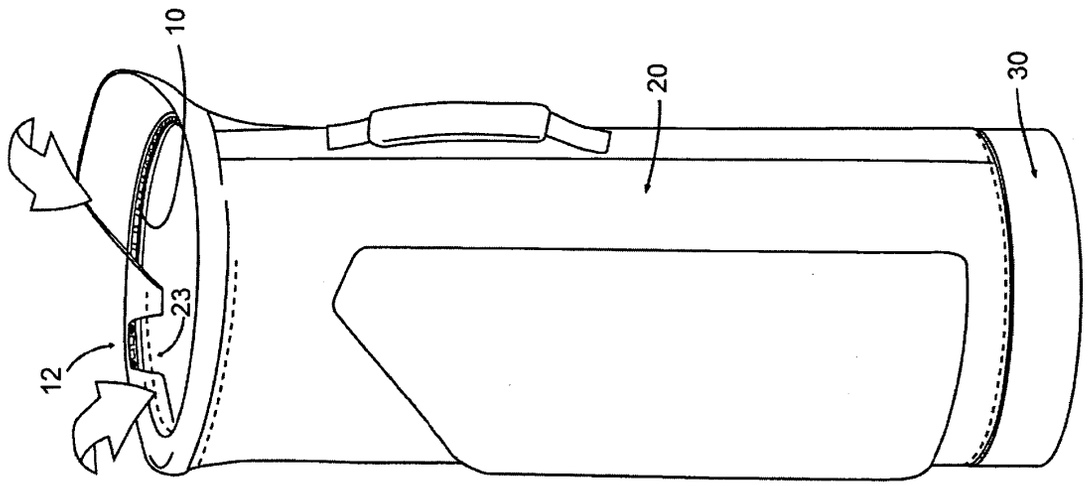


Fig. 6B

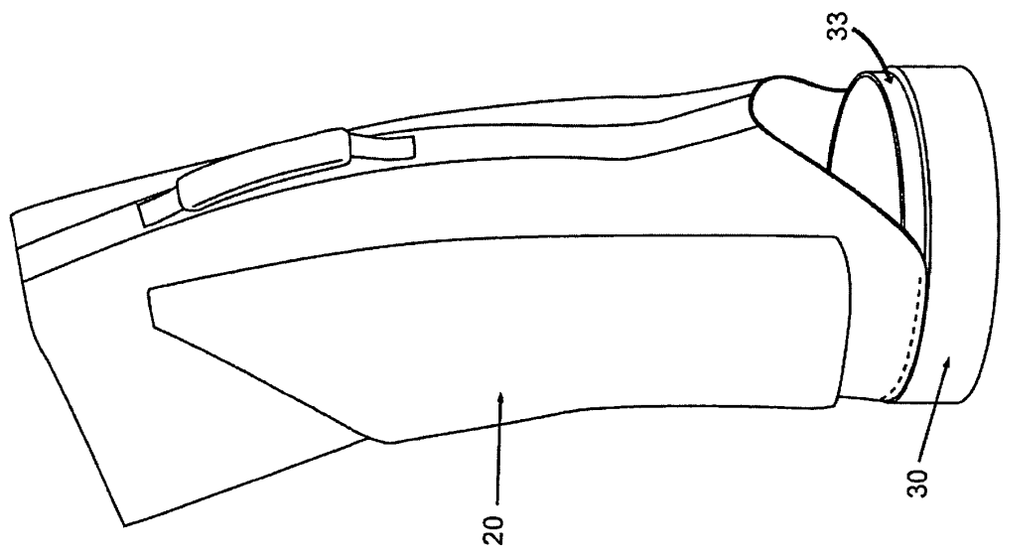


Fig. 6A

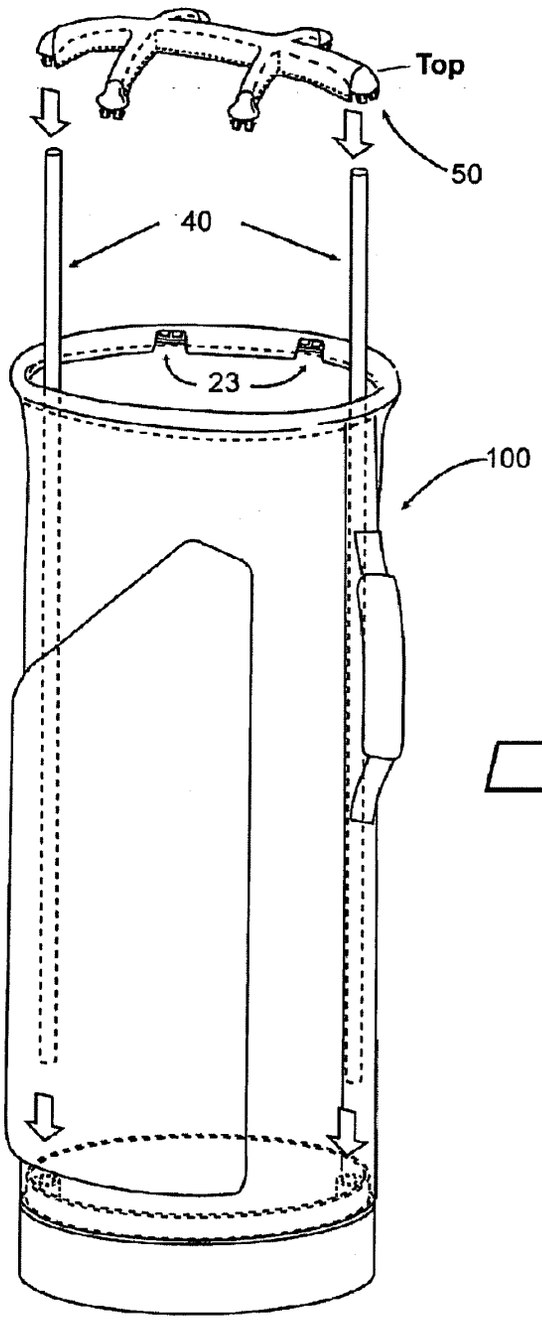


Fig 7A

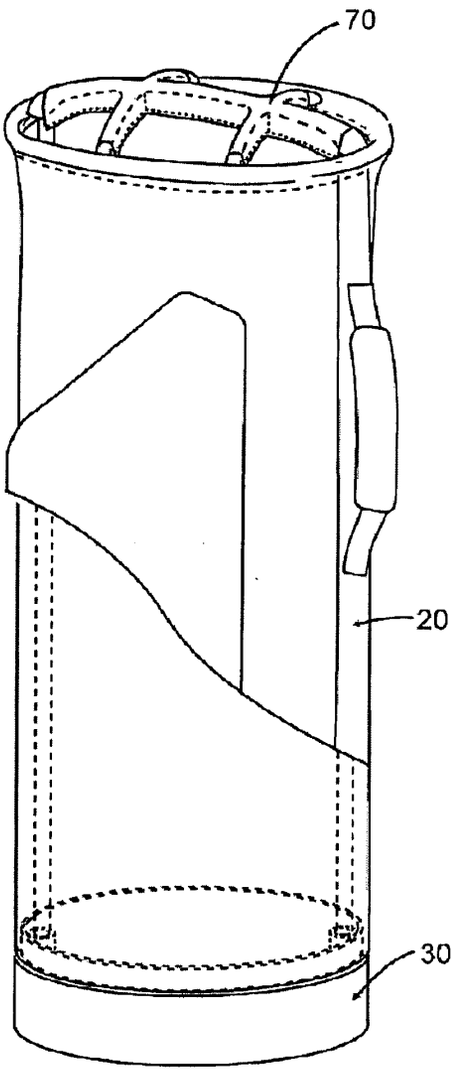


Fig 7B

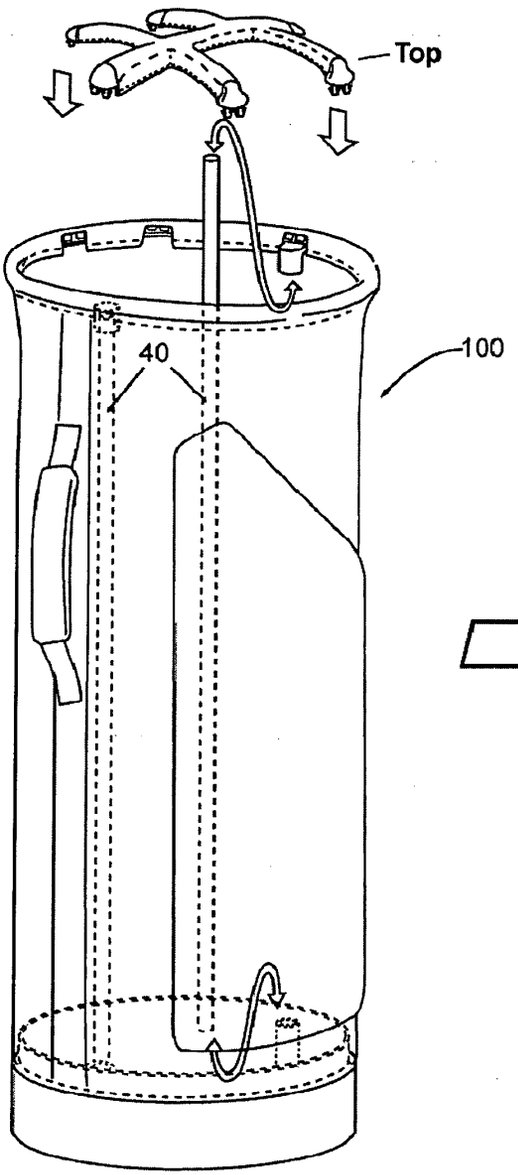


Fig 7C

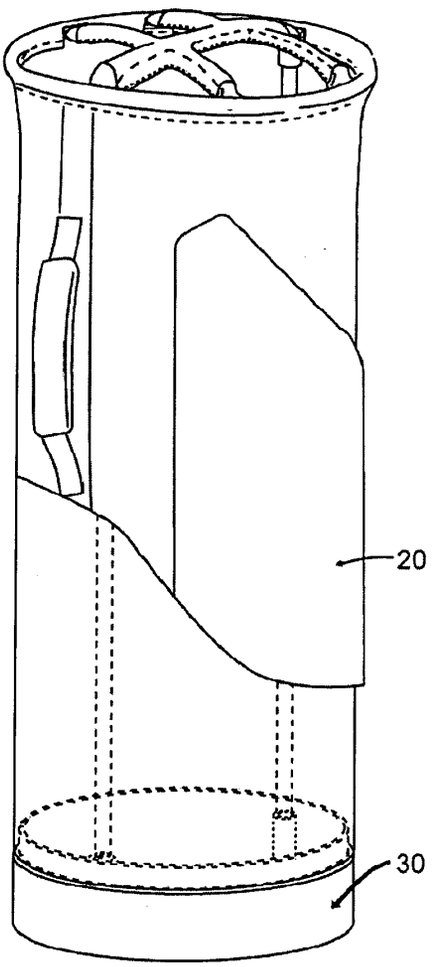
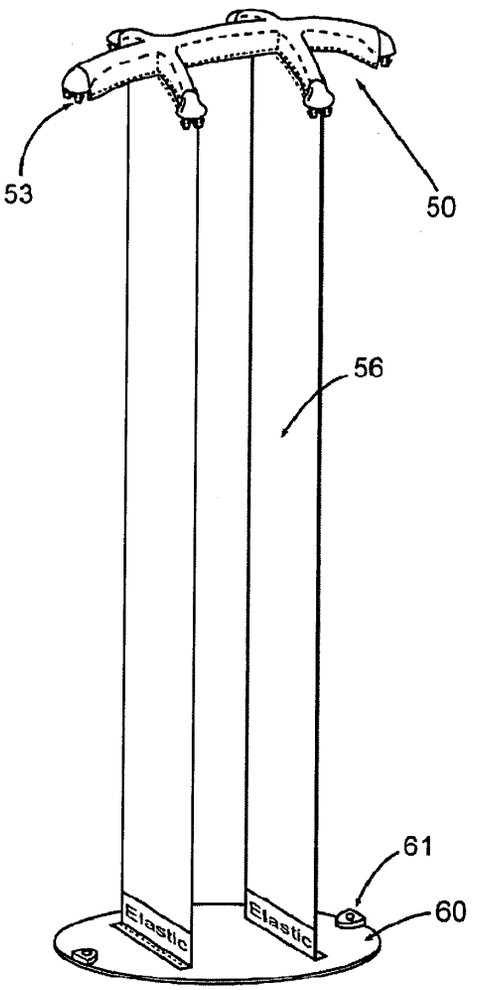


Fig 7D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56
61
60
Elastic
Elastic

Fig. 8A

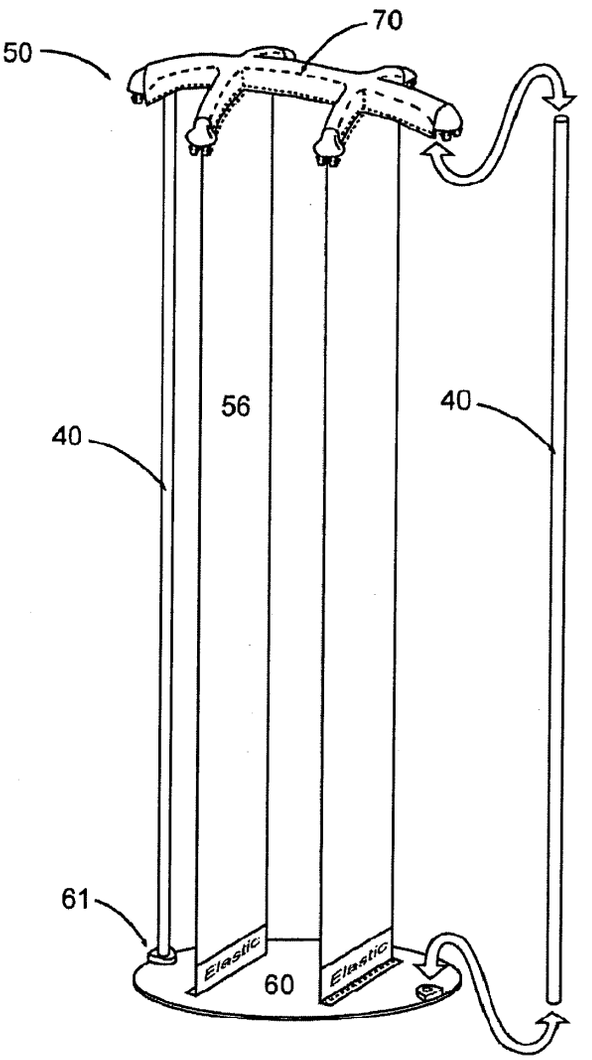
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Fig 8B

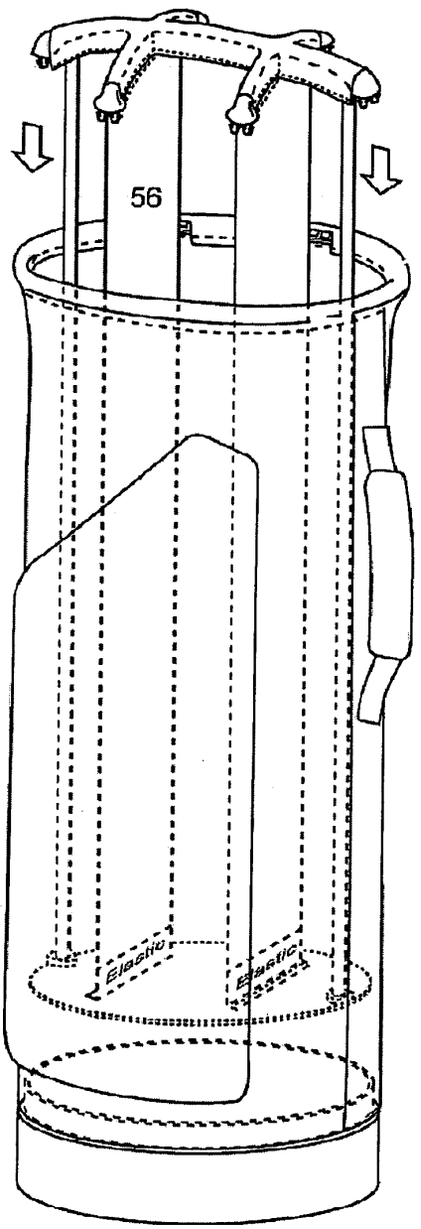

Fig 9A

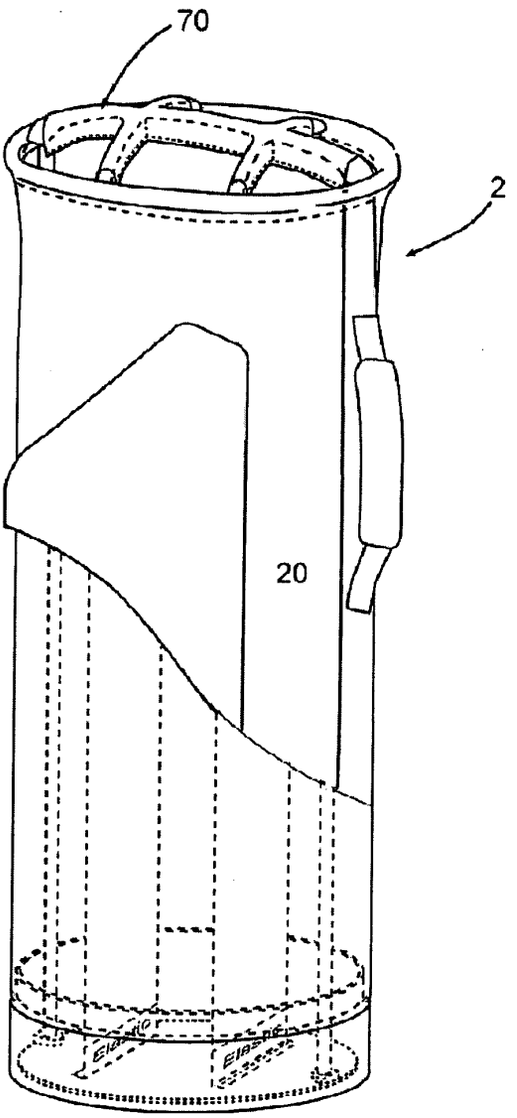

Fig 9B

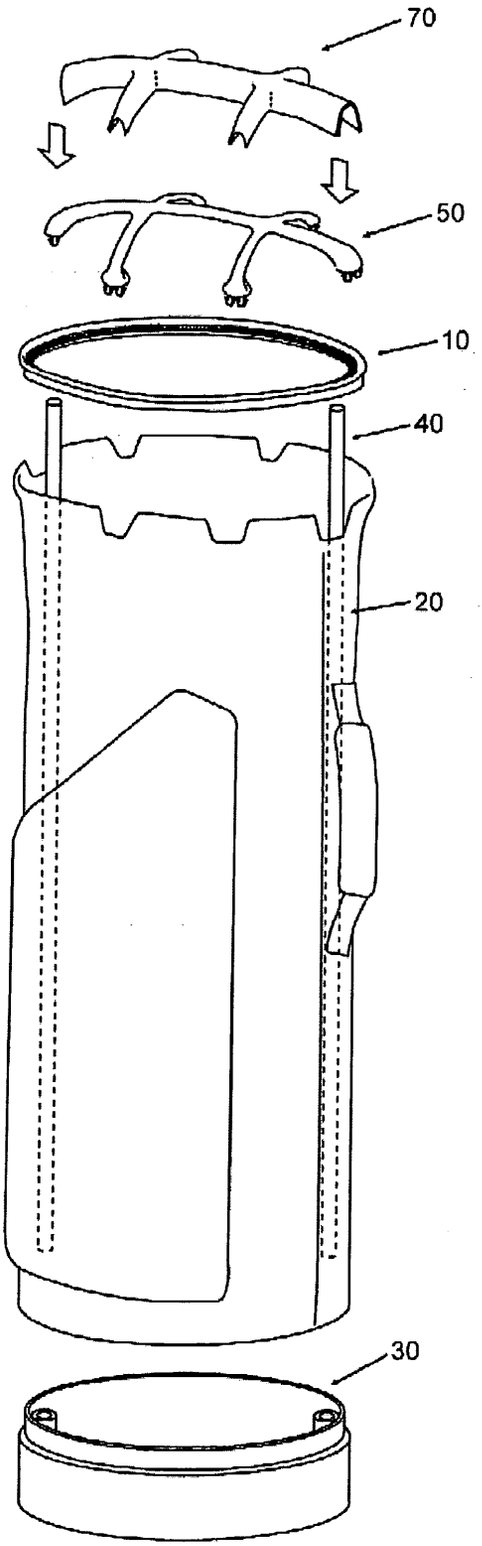

Fig 10A

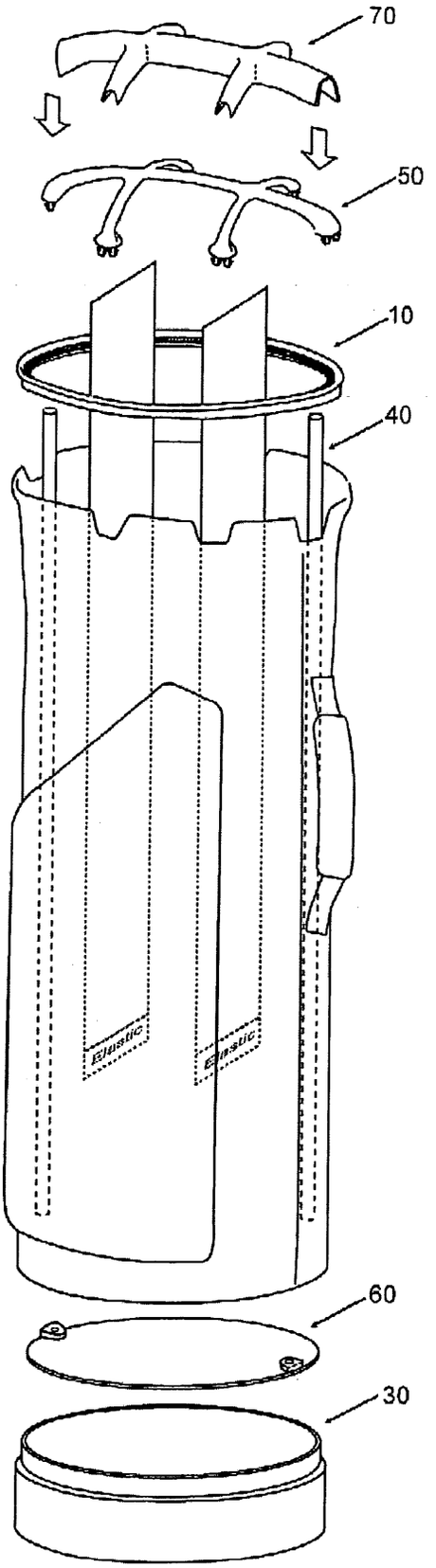

Fig 10B

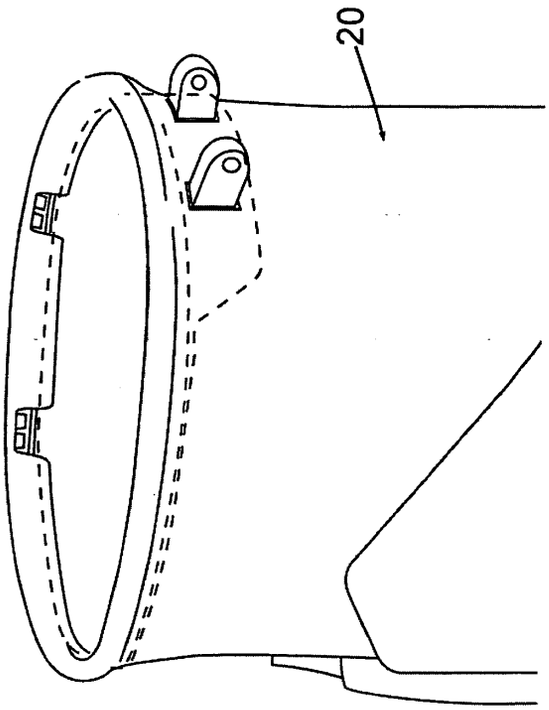

Fig.11B

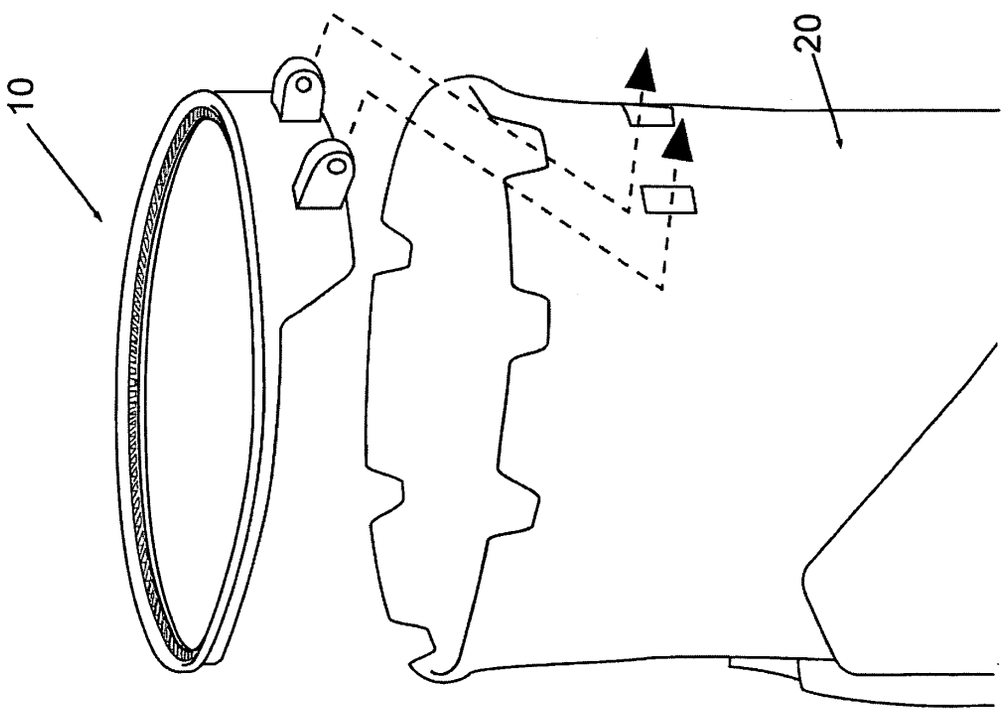

Fig.11A

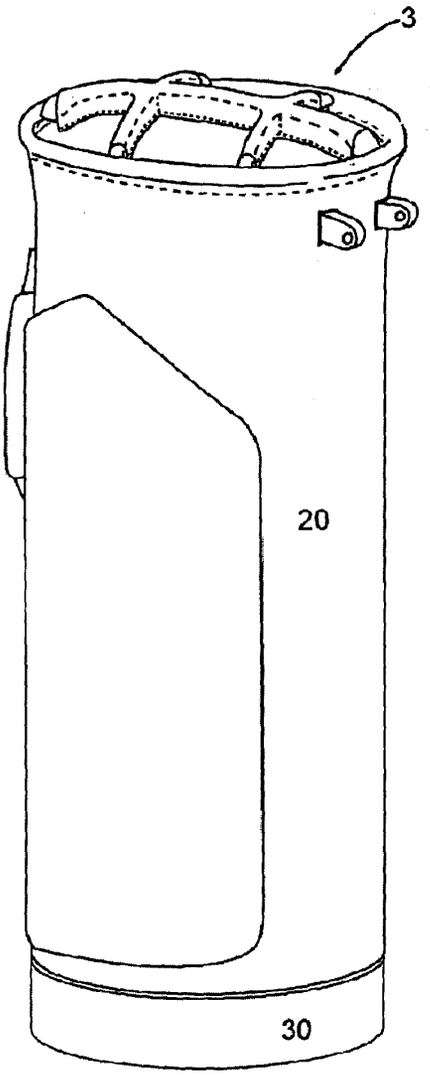

Fig 12A

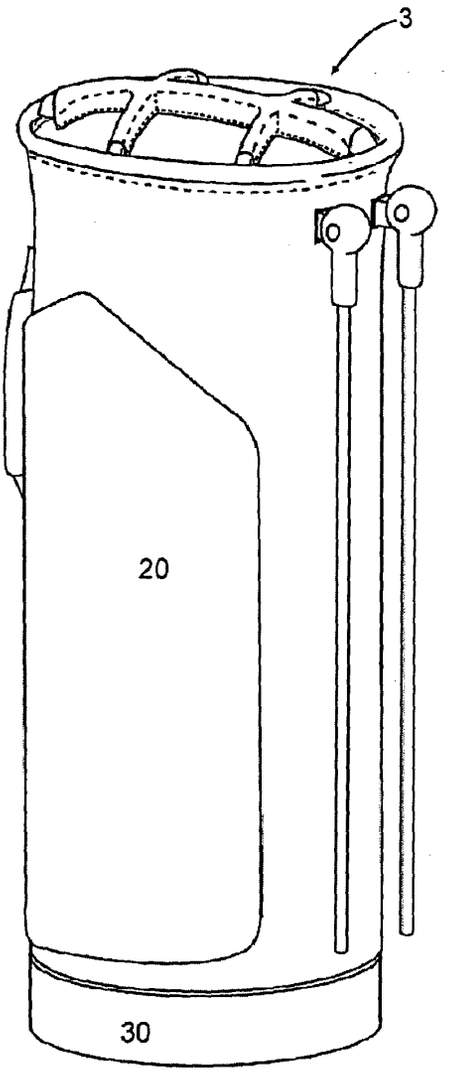

Fig 12B

European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 25 5092

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	19 November 2003	Williams, M

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European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 25 5092

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	19 November 2003	Williams, M

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X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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