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CONFIRMATION NO. 3228

FILING RECEIPT



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16461
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Date Mailed: 07/05/2017

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Projected Publication Date: None, application is not eligible for pre-grant publication

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

** SMALL ENTITY **

Title

Hat Holder

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Provisional Application for Patent Cover Sheet

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c)

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Middle Name

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CA

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All Inventors Must Be Listed – Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.

Add

Title of Invention

Hat Holder

Attorney Docket Number (if applicable)

BM-U-014P

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☐ Firm or Individual Name

Customer Number

16461

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☒ No.

Yes, the invention was made by an agency of the United States Government. The U.S. Government agency name is:

Yes, the invention was under a contract with an agency of the United States Government. The name of the U.S. Government agency and Government contract number are:

Entity Status

Applicant asserts small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27 or applicant certifies micro entity status under 37 CFR 1.29

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Signature	Benjamin E. Maskell/			Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-23
First Name	Benjamin	Last Name	Maskell	Registration Number (If appropriate)	64785

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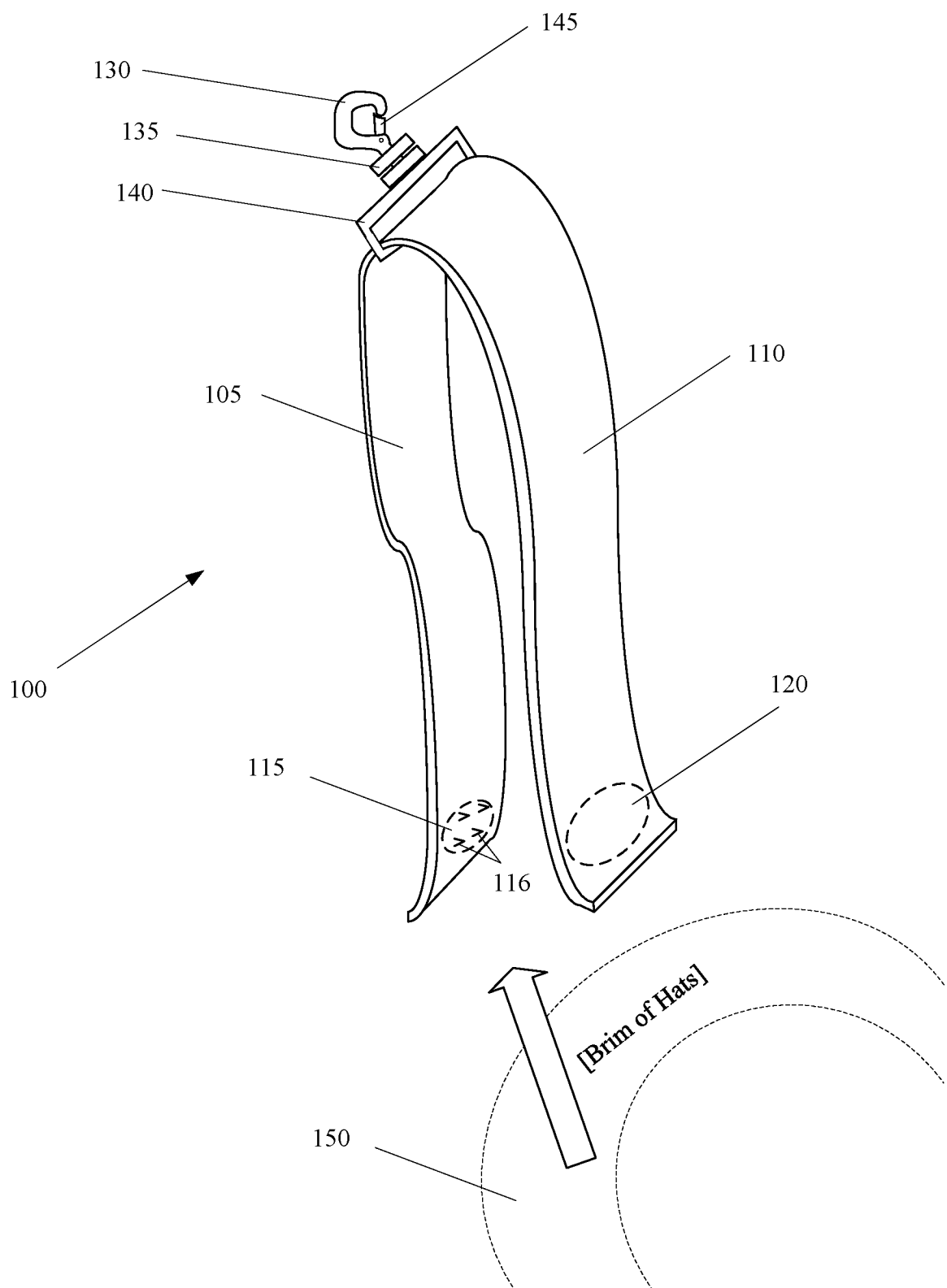


FIG. 1

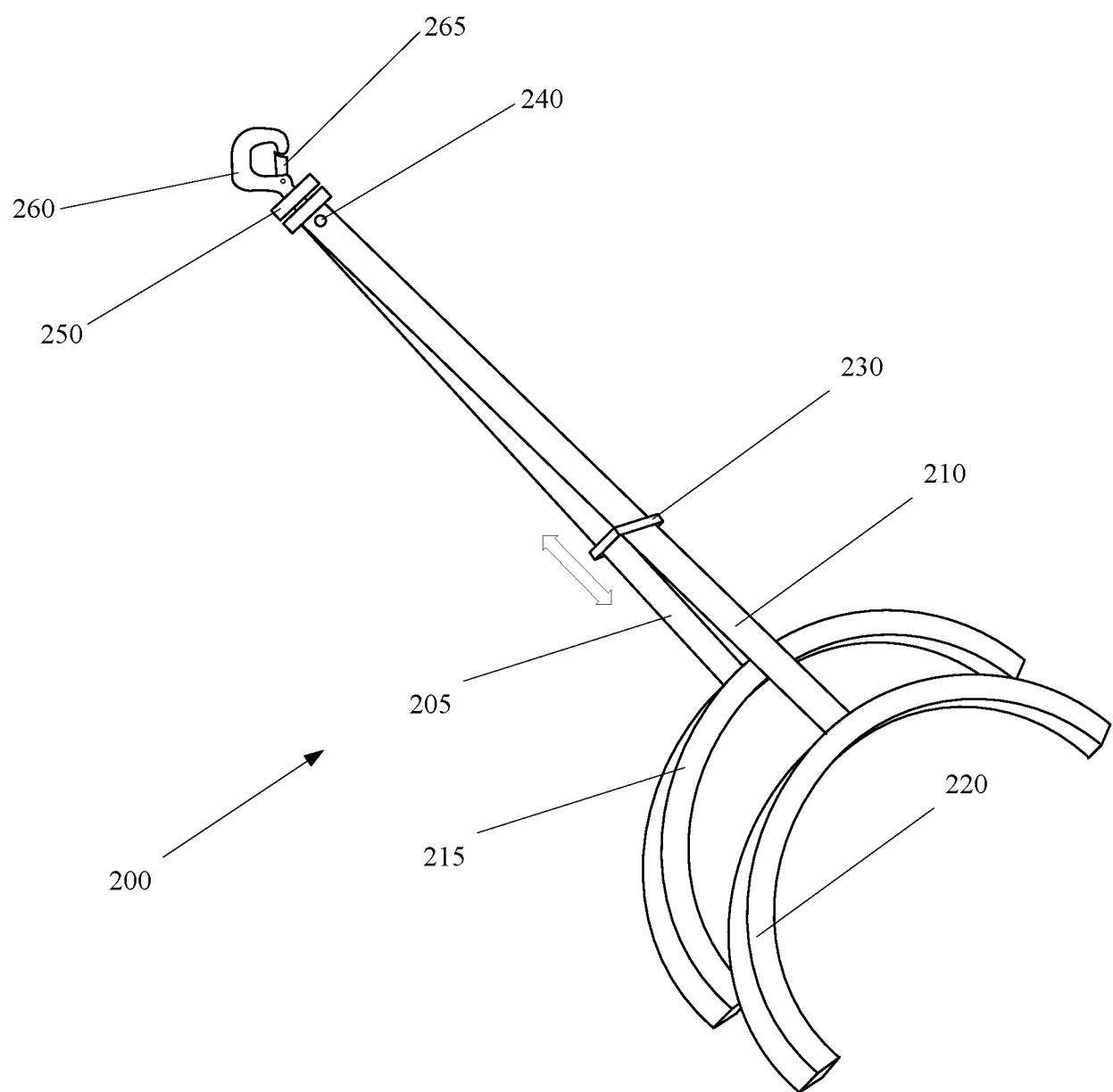


FIG. 2

FIG. 3A

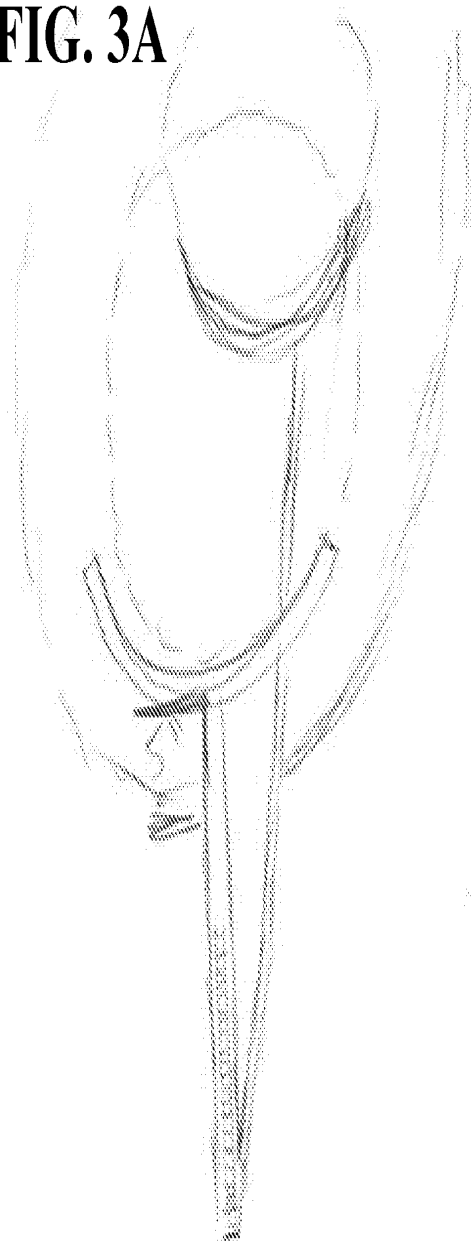


FIG. 3C

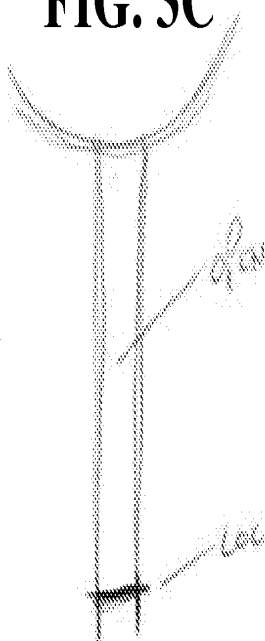


FIG. 3D

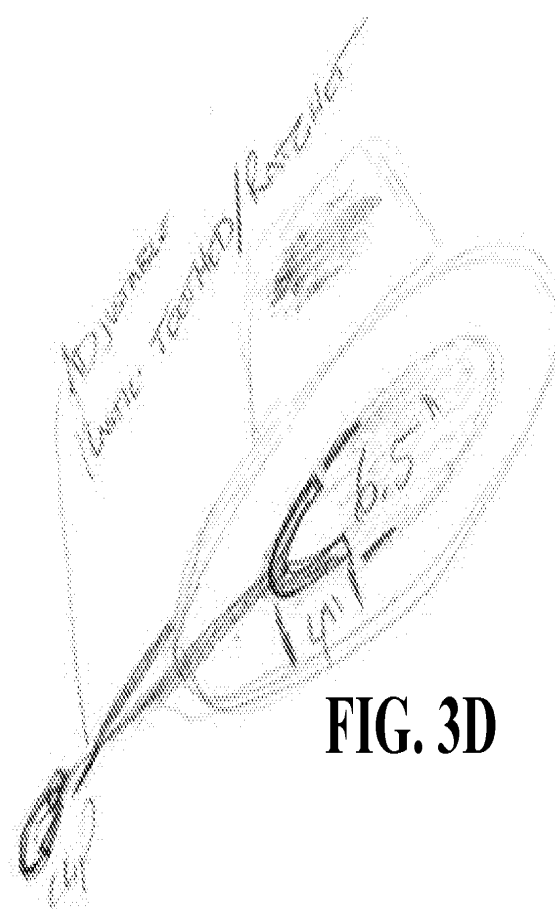


FIG. 3B

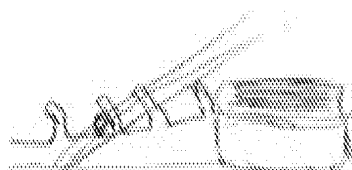
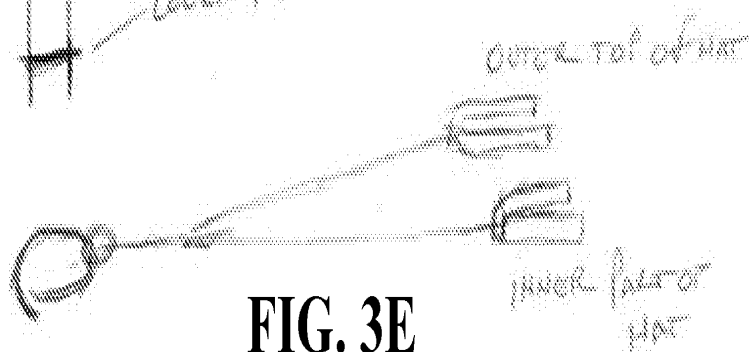


FIG. 3E



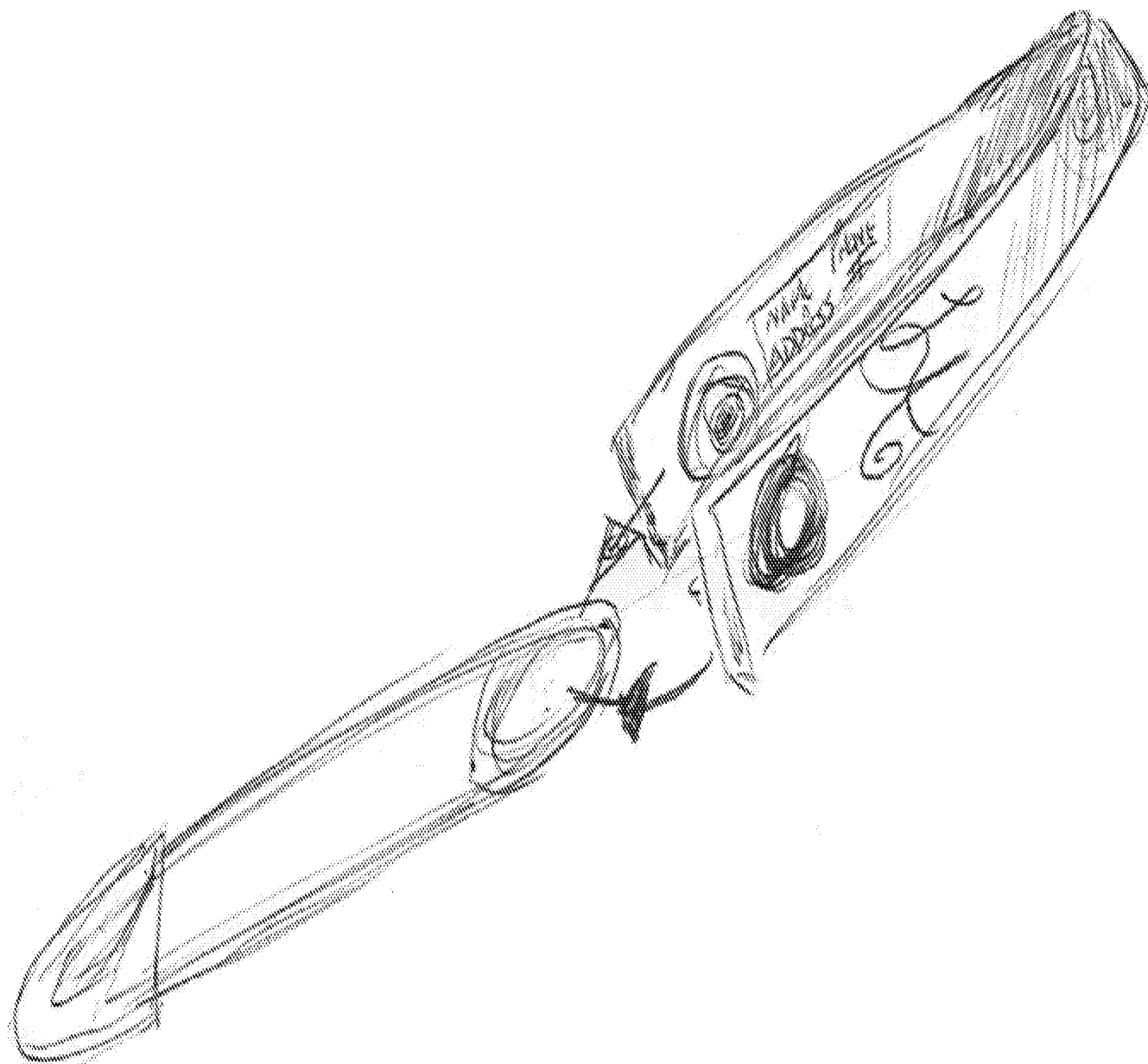


FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6

FIG. 7A

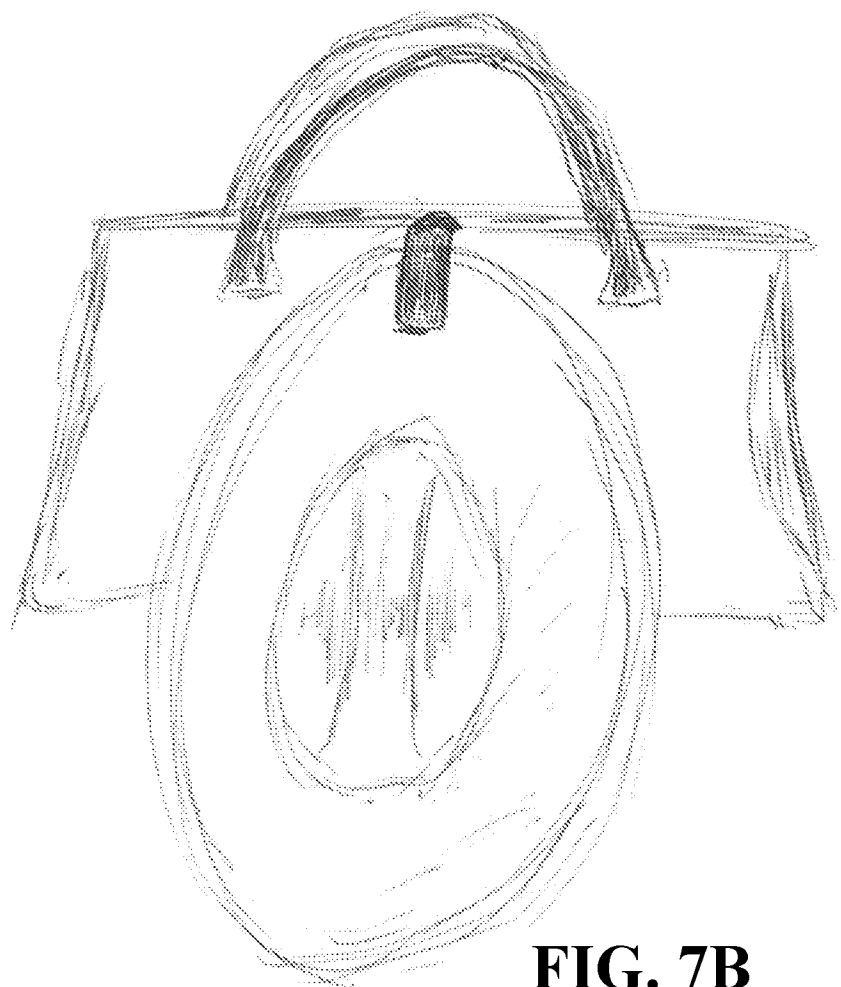
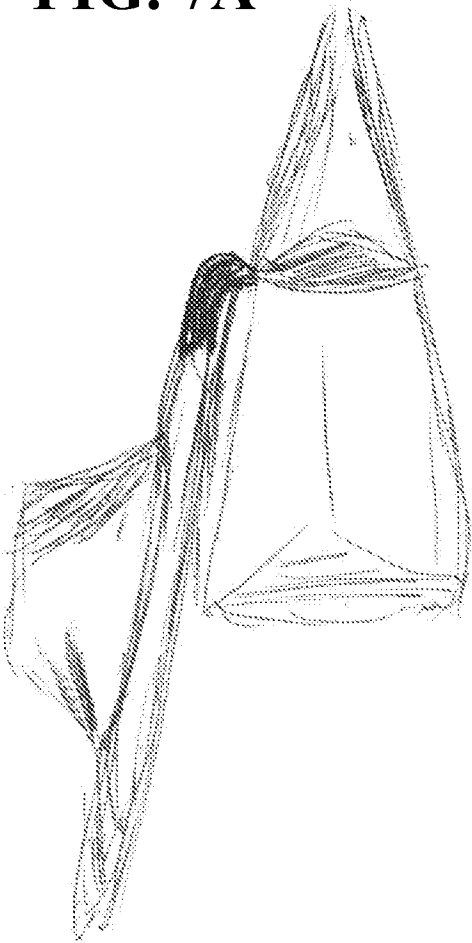


FIG. 7B

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

OF

Lindsay Albanese

AND

Mathew McKinley

FOR

Hat Holder

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The embodiments of the invention relate to a hat holder, and more particularly, to a fashionable hat holder of simple construction. Although embodiments of the invention are suitable for a wide scope of applications, it is particularly suitable for keeping a hat close at hand without cumbersome hat boxes.

Discussion of the Related Art

[0002] Hats are fashion accessories that have transcended the ages. One problem with a hat, however, is how to carry or store a hat when it is not being worn. When a wearer is at a home or an office, a hat can easily be stored on a shelf, hook, or in a hat box. However, if a user is outside or traveling it can be cumbersome to carry a hat box just for the purpose of storing a hat when not in use – an inconvenient proposition. Alternatively, a wearer can simply carry the hat with a free hand, however this has the undesirable effect of encumbering a user. A hat can have a string and the hat can be worn around the neck, but this too can be encumbering or simply not compatible with the style of the day. In another alternative, a hat can be store in a briefcase or bag at risk of compression damage to the hat.

[0003] Thus, the currently known solutions for holding a hat are inconvenient, cumbersome, not stylish, or risk damage to the hat and there is a need for a device to solve the aforementioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Accordingly, embodiments of the invention are directed to a hat holder that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0005] An object of embodiments of the invention is to provide a sleek and stylish hat holder.

[0006] Another object of embodiments of the invention is to provide a hat holder that minimizes the potential for damage to a hat.

[0007] Yet another object of embodiments of the invention is to provide a hat holder that can quickly store and release a hat.

[0008] Still another object of embodiments of the invention is to provide a hat holder that can be conveniently used while traveling or away from the home.

[0009] Additional features and advantages of embodiments of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of embodiments of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the embodiments of the invention will be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

[0010] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of embodiments of the invention, as embodied and broadly described, hat holder includes a first strap with a first end and a second end, a second strap having a first end and a second end where the second end of the second strap is joined to the second end of the first strap, a hook at the second ends of the first strap, a first magnet disposed at a first end of the first strap, a second magnet disposed a first end of the second strap, a first gripping structure at the first end of the first strap, wherein the first strap and the second strap are configured to be separably joined by the magnetic attraction between the first magnet and the second magnet.

[0011] In another aspect, a hat holder includes a first spring arm having a first end and a second end, a second spring arm having a first end and a second end where the second end of the

second spring arm joined to the second end of the first spring arm, a retention member slidably disposed on the first arm and the second arm, a first catch portion at the first end of the first arm, a second catch portion at the first end of the second arm; wherein the first catch portion is configured to be disposed on an outside of a hat, the second catch portion is configured to be disposed on an inside of the hat, and the first and second catch portions are configured to be selectively locked by sliding the retention member to a closed position thereby securing the hat in the hat holder

[0012] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of embodiments of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of embodiments of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of embodiments of the invention.

[0014] FIG. 1 is an illustration of a magnetic hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention;

[0015] FIG. 2 is an illustration of a clamping hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention;

[0016] FIG. 3A-3E are illustrations of a clamping hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention;

[0017] FIG. 4 is an illustration of a pin-style hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention;

[0018] FIG. 5 is a photograph of a magnetic hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention;

[0019] FIG. 6 is a photograph of a magnetic hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention; and

[0020] FIG. 7A and FIG. 7B are illustrations of a hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0021] Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as being limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the concept of the invention to those skilled in the art. In the drawings, the thicknesses of layers and regions are exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements.

[0022] FIG. 1 is an illustration of a magnetic hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 1, a hat holder 100 can include two straps 105 and 110 each respectively having a magnet 115 and 120 at an end. The hat holder can further have a buckle 140 a hook 130. The hook 130 can be attached to the buckle 140 with swivel connection 135. The hook 130 can have a gate 145. The area of the magnet 115 can have a gripping structure 116. A second gripping structure (not shown) can also be disposed in the area of magnet 120 and arranged to oppose gripping structure 116.

[0023] The straps 105 and 110 can be formed from a supple yet strong material such as fabric, leather, or nylon webbing. The straps 105 and 110 can be formed from a single continuous piece of material or, alternatively, from separate pieces of material. The ends of the straps 105 and 110 can have magnets 115 and 120, respectively. The magnets 115 and 120 can be sewn into the straps 105 and 110. The magnets 115 and 120 can be riveted, glued, snapped, or otherwise attached to the straps 105 and 110. While reference numerals 115 and 120 are described as magnets, those of skill in the art will appreciate that one of 115 or 120 could be replaced with a ferromagnetic material and still achieve the benefits of the present invention.

[0024] The straps 105 and 110 can further have gripping structures in the vicinity of the magnets 105 and 110 such as gripping structure 116. The gripping structure 116 can be small spikes formed from plastic or metal. The gripping structure 116 can be mounted on an exterior surface of the straps or, alternatively, disposed on an interior of a strap such that only the spike portion protrudes. In preferred embodiments, each strap has a gripping structure although other embodiments anticipate only one side has a gripping structure. The gripping structure 116 can be formed from a lightly abrasive material such as worsted wool or unfinished leather. The gripping structure 116 can be formed from a hard abrasive material such as sandpaper.

[0025] In use, the brim of a hat 150 can be positioned between the magnets 115 and 120 of the two straps 105 and 110. When the magnets 115 and 120 are moved in close proximity, the force of magnetic attraction can pull the magnets together and, in doing so, cause the gripping portion 116 to engage the brim of the hat. Thus, the straps 105 and 110 are now releasably attached to the brim of the hat. The hat is substantially secured, and prevented from slipping loose, by the force exerted on the gripping portion 116 by the magnets 115 and 120. Although FIG. 1 shows just a single hat 150, it is contemplated that two or more hats could be stacked and similarly held in the hat holder 100.

[0026] The end of the straps 105 and 110 opposite the magnets 115 and 120 can include a hook 130 for attaching the hat holder 100 to another object such as a beltloop (see, e.g. FIG. 6). The hook 130 can have a gate 145 to prevent the hook 135 from becoming accidentally dislodged. The hook can be attached to a buckle 140 that couples the hook to the straps 105 and 110. Optionally, a swivel 135 can be disposed between the buckle 140 and the hook 130 so that the two can rotate with respect to one another. Although not shown in the embodiment of FIG.

1, the buckle 140 can be sewn into the straps 105 and 110 to prevent the buckle from slipping off the end and becoming lost when not in use.

[0027] In other embodiments, substitutions are contemplated for the buckle 140 and hook 130. In one such embodiment, the straps 105 and 110 can be sewn into the inside a briefcase or bag near an opening of the briefcase or bag. (See, e.g. FIG 7A-7B) To use the hat holder 100, the straps 105 and 110 can be flipped to the outside of the bag and the hat 150 can be inserted between the magnets 115 and 120 as previously described. This allows the hat to lightly ride on an outside of the briefcase or bag. In another embodiment, the straps 105 and 110 can be sewn into and stored a liner of the hat. To use the hat holder, the straps can be flipped out of the liner and the magnetic ends can be attached to another object of the owners choosing. One such object may be a beltloop of pants. Another such object can be a metal surface such as an appliance, a car, or a window frame. Another such object can be a bag or a purse.

[0028] FIG. 2 is an illustration of a clamping hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 2, a hat holder 200 can include catch portions 215 and 220 and arms 205 and 210. A retaining member 230 can be disposed on the arms 205 and 210. A rivet 240 can hold the arms 205 and 210 together. The hat holder can 200 can have a swivel 250, hook 260, and gate 265 as described in conjunction with FIG. 1.

[0029] The arms 205 and 210 can be formed from a thin rigid material having slightly springy properties. The arms 205 and 210 can be formed from spring steel or plastic. The catch portions 215 and 220 can be shaped in approximate proportions to conform to the shape of the hat. In greater detail, the catch portion 215 can be shaped to fit to the outside of the head-portion of a hat. The catch portion 220 can be shaped to fit to the inside of the head-portion of a hat.

The catch portions 215 and 220 can be rigid or flexible. The catch portions 215 and 220 can be sufficiently flexible to conform to the shape of the hat.

[0030] The catch portions 215 and 220 can be disposed at an end of each arm 205 and 210. The arm 210 can be slightly longer than the arm 205 so that the corresponding catch portions 215 and 220 are slightly offset. The offset can allow the respective catch portions 215 and 220 to be comfortably disposed on an outside and an inside of a hat respectively.

[0031] The retaining member 230 can be slidably disposed on the arms 205 and 210. The retaining member 230 can slide between an open position (near rivet 240) and a closed position (near catch members 215 and 220). In an open position, the arms 205 and 210 can be separated such that a hat can be positioned between the respective catch portions 215 and 220. After a hat is positioned in the hat holder 200, the retaining member 230 can be slid into the closed position. In the closed position, the arms 205 and 210 can be substantially restricted from opening thereby securing a hat in the hat holder 200.

[0032] When the retaining member 230 is slid into the closed position, the arms 205 and 210 can bend slightly thereby imparting a clamping force between respective sides of the hat holder 200. The clamping force can secure a hat in the hat holder.

[0033] FIG. 3A-3E are illustrations of a clamping hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. FIG. 3A shows a top view of a hat holder with catch portions on the inside and outside of a hat. A grip strip is shown on the top arm. FIG. 3B is a detail view of a grip structure for the hat holder of FIG. 3A. The grip strip can have a series of hooks to keep the retention member from slipping and releasing the hat. FIG. 3C shows a top view of a hat holder where the retention member is in an open position. FIG. 3D is an isometric drawing of a hat holder showing a catch portion on an inside of a hat and exemplary approximate dimensions

of an inside catch portion. FIG. 3E shows a side view of a hat holder where one arm is slightly longer than the other arm so that the inside catch portion and the outside catch portion are slightly offset.

[0034] FIG. 4 is an illustration of a pin-style hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 4, a hat holder can have opposing straps, each respectively having an opposing fastener. The fasteners can be magnets, snaps, buttons, or the like. The strap can be looped through another object such as the handle of a briefcase, purse or bag or a beltloop. The strap can have a nametag for identification purposes. A pin can be attached to a hat (not shown). The pin can also be attached to the fasteners so that the entire assembly is secured. In this way, a hat can be attached to a pin, the pin can be attached to the straps, and the straps can be attached to a handle of a hand bag. The straps can include ornamental surface markings or monogramming for fashion or identification purposes.

[0035] FIG. 5 is a photograph of a magnetic hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 5, a strap (brown leather) can be attached to a brim of a hat. The strap can be formed from a double-layer of leather and a magnet (bulge) can be sewn between the layers. A buckle and hook can be disposed on the strap so that the assembly can be attached to a beltloop.

[0036] FIG. 6 is a photograph of a magnetic hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 5, a strap (brown leather) can be attached to a brim of a hat. The strap can be formed from a double-layer of leather and a magnet (bulge) can be sewn between the layers. A buckle and hook can be disposed on the strap so that the assembly can be attached to a beltloop.

[0037] FIG. 7A and FIG. 7B are illustrations of a hat holder according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 7A and FIG. 7B, a hat holder can be sewn into the interior of a bag or briefcase. To use the hat holder (for example the magnetic hat holder described in conjunction with FIG. 1) the straps can be flipped from the inside of the bag to the outside of the bag. On the outside of the bag, a hat can be disposed between the magnets to hold the hat in place. In the example of FIG. 7A and FIG. 7B the hat rides lightly on the outside of the bag. This can prevent the hat from being damaged or wrinkled and provide an easy place to store the hat when not in use.

[0038] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the hat holder without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that embodiments of the invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magnetic hat holder, comprising:
 - a first strap having a first end and a second end;
 - a second strap having a first end and a second end, the second end of the second strap joined to the second end of the first strap;
 - a hook at the second ends of the first strap;
 - a first magnet disposed at a first end of the first strap;
 - a second magnet disposed a first end of the second strap;
 - a first gripping structure at the first end of the first strap;
 - wherein the first strap and the second strap are configured to be separably joined by the magnetic attraction between the first magnet and the second magnet.

2. A clamping hat holder; comprising:
 - a first spring arm having a first end and a second end;
 - a second spring arm having a first end and a second end, the second end of the second spring arm joined to the second end of the first spring arm;
 - a retention member slidably disposed on the first arm and the second arm;
 - a first catch portion at the first end of the first arm;
 - a second catch portion at the first end of the second arm;
 - wherein the first catch portion is configured to be disposed on an outside of a hat, the second catch portion is configured to disposed on an inside of the hat, and the first and second catch portions are configured to be selectively locked by sliding the retention member to a closed position thereby securing the hat in the hat holder.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a magnetic hat holder having a first strap with a first end and a second end, a second strap having a first end and a second end where the second end of the second strap is joined to the second end of the first strap, a hook at the second ends of the first strap, a first magnet disposed at a first end of the first strap, a second magnet disposed a first end of the second strap, a first gripping structure at the first end of the first strap, wherein the first strap and the second strap are configured to be separably joined by the magnetic attraction between the first magnet and the second magnet.

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First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:

Lindsay Albanese

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National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

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