

[54] **INFANT CARRIER**
 [76] **Inventor:** Linda A. Lindsay, 340 W. 55th St. 9B,
 New York, N.Y. 10019
 [21] **Appl. No.:** 232,689
 [22] **Filed:** Aug. 16, 1988
 [51] **Int. Cl.⁵** A45F 3/04
 [52] **U.S. Cl.** 224/160; 224/216
 [58] **Field of Search** 224/153, 158, 159, 160,
 224/161, 195, 197, 202, 206, 209, 213, 215, 216,
 224, 257, 259, 260, 264, 151, 157, 185, 196, 199,
 201, 204, 205, 207, 208, 211, 214, 253, 255

2076636 12/1981 United Kingdom 224/153

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Snugly "Handbook" (1981).
 Gerry Escort Baby Carrier (date unknown).
 Advertisement Snugly Padded Infant Carrier (1988).
 Lookabout Carrier advertisement—Sensational Begin-
 nings (date unknown).
 Sara's Ride Comfortable Carrier (1984).
 Aviator Baby Carrier advertisement (1987).
 Advertisement—Papoose Baby Carrier (date unknown).
 Instructions for Papoose Baby Carrier (date unknown).
 Century Kangourou Package (1986).
 Baby Matey Literature (date unknown).
 Baby Carrier from Catalog Baby Bjorn (date unknown).
 Baby Bear Carrier advertisement—(Hearth Song Cata-
 logue, Jan. 1988).

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

874,945	12/1907	Davey	224/216
1,109,065	9/1914	Heath et al.	224/159
2,550,851	5/1951	Nichols	224/151
3,481,517	12/1969	Aukerman	224/160
3,536,237	10/1970	Greenman	224/264
4,139,131	2/1979	Hathaway	224/160
4,234,229	11/1980	Arnold	224/160
4,271,998	6/1981	Ruggiano	224/160
4,434,920	3/1984	Moore	224/160
4,436,233	3/1984	Hill et al.	224/159
4,467,945	8/1984	Schaapveld	224/160
4,492,326	1/1985	Storm	224/160
4,836,428	6/1989	Evans et al.	224/253

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

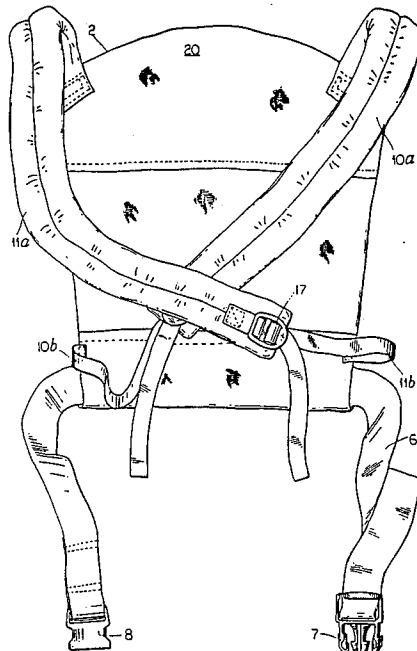
1215795	4/1960	France	224/159
259005	12/1948	Switzerland	224/215
6801	of 1888	United Kingdom	224/216
22099	of 1895	United Kingdom	224/209
449569	6/1936	United Kingdom	224/161

Primary Examiner—Ernest G. Cusick
Assistant Examiner—Robert M. Fetsuga
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Ladas & Parry

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An infant carrier having an infant supporting pouch and a harness permitting the carrier to be worn by an adult. The harness comprises adjustable shoulder straps and an adjustable girth strap so arranged as to enable the carrying pouch to be switched from a position of frontal support to a position of side support while the harness is on a wearer and while the child remains in the pouch. The carrier may also be used to carry an infant on the back of the wearer.

12 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



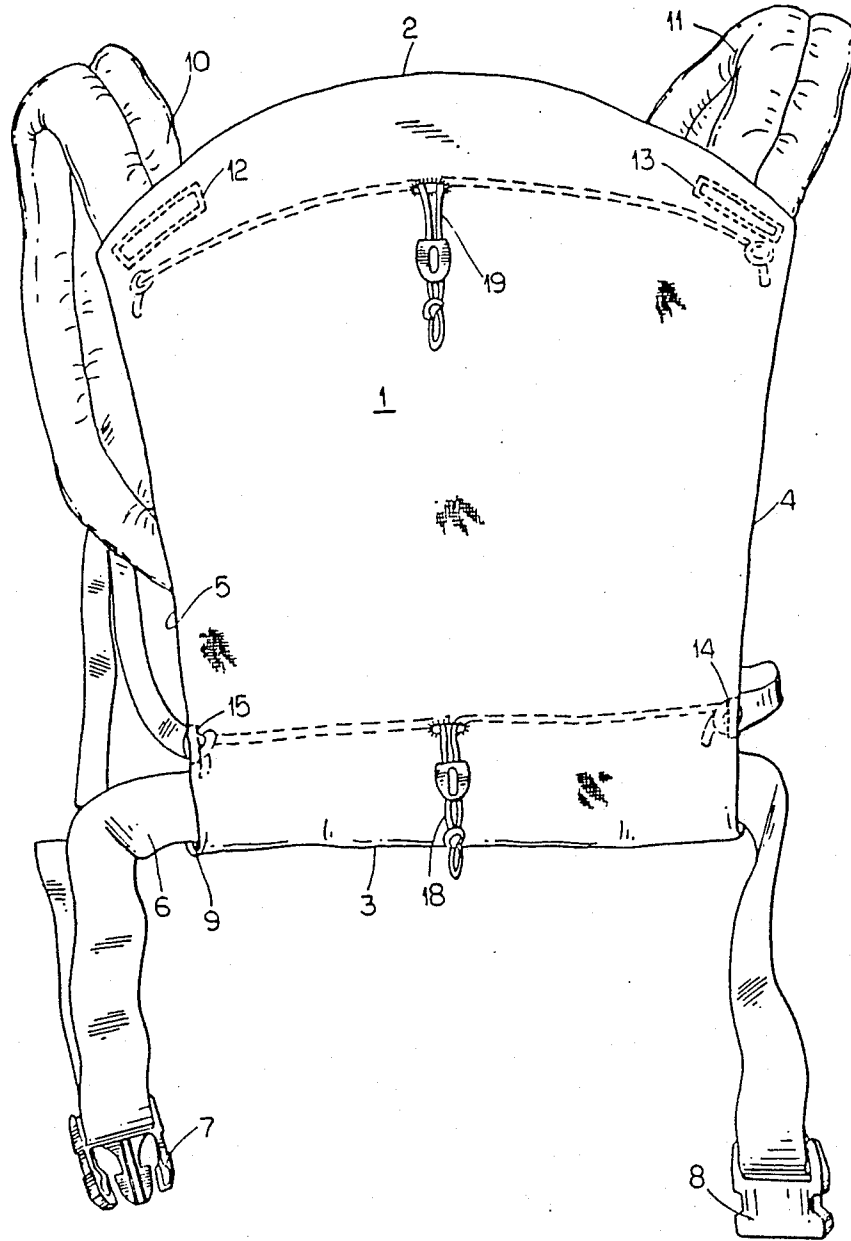


FIG. 1

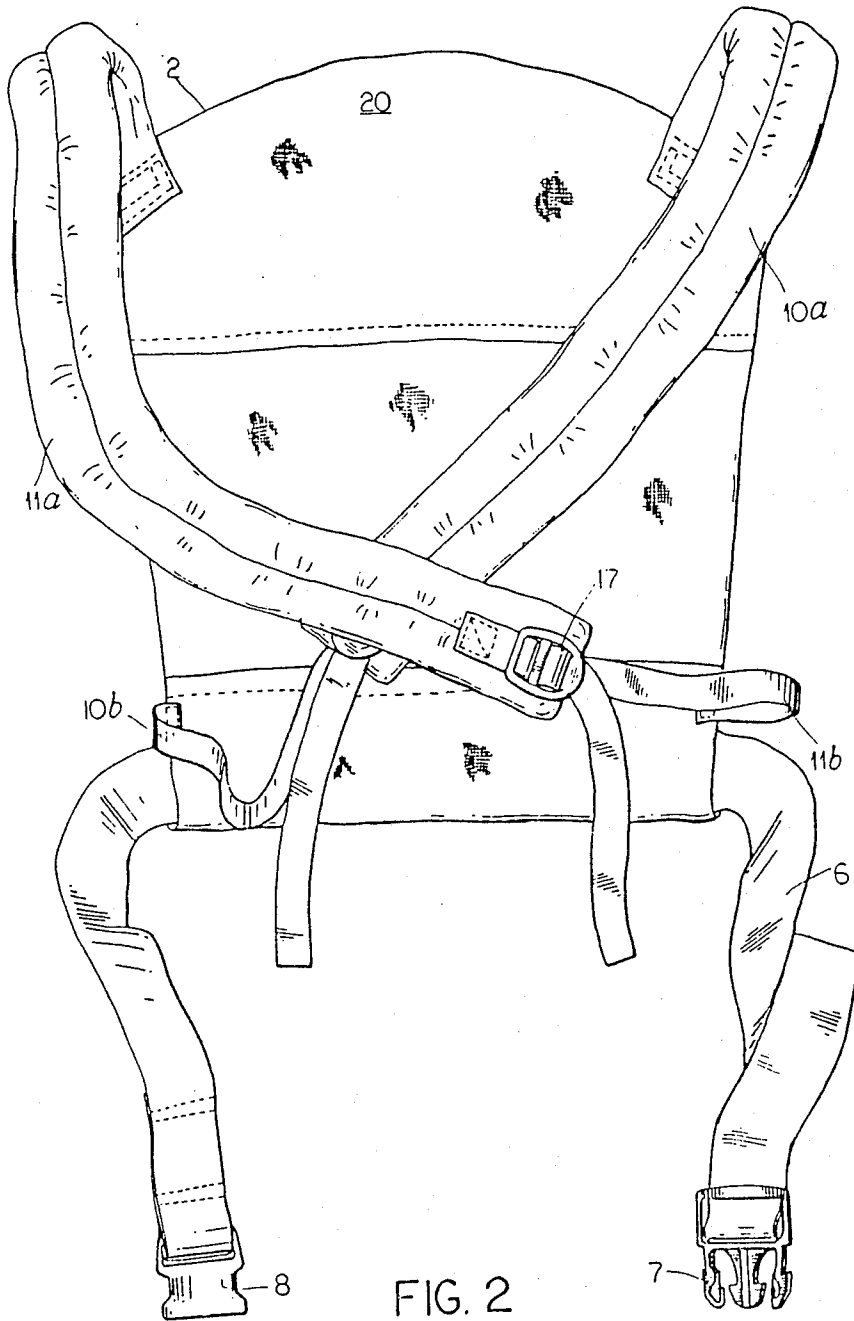


FIG. 2

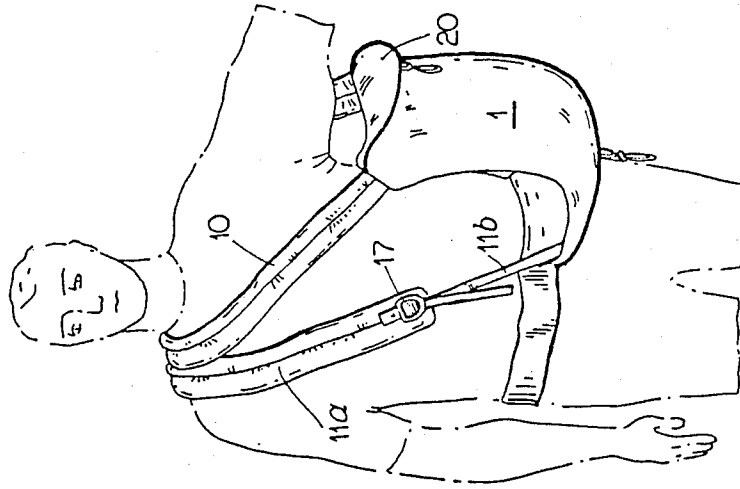


FIG. 5

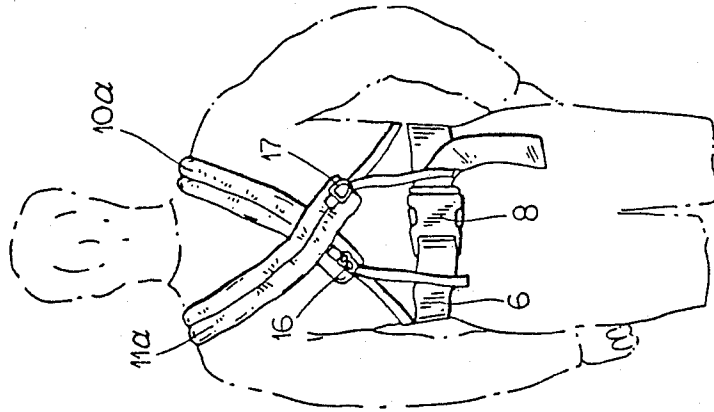


FIG. 4

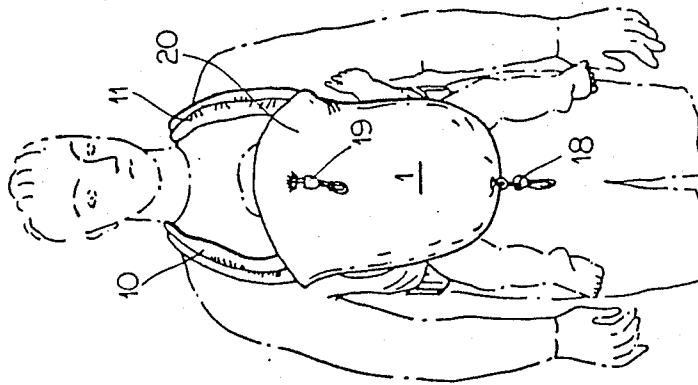


FIG. 3

INFANT CARRIER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to an infant carrier of the soft type in which an infant is supported in a pouch which is then slung from the shoulders of an adult carrier. The infant is retained in an upright, usually sitting, position by virtue of the sling support depending from the carrier's shoulders. However, the weight of the infant is distributed so that the majority of the weight is not borne by the shoulders which would not only be uncomfortable but would readily impart fatigue to the carrier. Instead, the majority of the weight of the infant is borne by the lower torso, especially the hips.

The infant carrier of the invention enables an adult comfortably to carry a child in a variety of circumstances, for example, around the house, when shopping, in fact whenever walking or standing is involved.

Infant carriers are generally of two types, namely soft carriers and frame carriers. Soft carriers are known in which an infant is supported on the front, side or back of a wearer, whereas frame carriers lend themselves to supporting an infant on the back of a wearer.

While there are distinct advantages to each type of carrier, it has hitherto not been possible readily to switch from one carrying position to the other, particularly while the carrier is in use with an infant supported in the pouch.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,434,920 and 4,492,326 are examples of infant carriers in which the infant is supported in front of the adult carrier. U.S. Pat. No. 4,436,233 is an example of an infant carrier where the infant is slung to one side of the adult and U.S. Pat. No. 3,481,517 is an example of a rear infant carrier.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

In addition to the prior art exemplified in the above identified U.S. patents, infant carriers have been marketed which are capable of carrying a child on the front, back or side of an adult carrier. However, although separate positions of support may be adopted, in order to switch from one position to another it has hitherto been necessary first to remove the child from the carrier and then to rearrange the carrier as necessary before replacing the child in a carried position.

It is an object of the invention to provide an infant carrier in which a supported child can be moved, at will, from a position of frontal support to a position of side support. At all times during such movement, the infant remains snugly and securely seated in the pouch.

It is a further object of the invention to provide an infant support where the weight of a supported infant is properly distributed to cause minimal inconvenience or discomfort to an adult carrier.

According to the present invention there is provided an infant carrier including a pouch having upper left and right corners and a transversely extending lower edge, and a harness attached to said pouch and including shoulder strap means and girth strap means, wherein said shoulder strap means includes a first shoulder strap secured at one end to said pouch in the region of said upper left corner and extending diagonally down and across said pouch to a location in the region of the right end of said lower edge at which the other end of said first strap is secured to said pouch and a second shoulder strap secured at one end to said pouch in the region of said upper right corner and extending diagonally

down and across said pouch to a location in the region of the left end of said lower edge at which the other end of said second strap is secured to said pouch, and wherein said girth strap means has opposite end portions extending respectively outwardly from said lower edge of the pouch and cooperating coupling means operable to couple said opposite end portions whereby said pouch may be slung in selected positions, said selected positions including on the front and on the side of the wearer.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention there is provided an infant carrier adaptable to support an infant selectively and interchangeably on the front or on the side of an adult, said carrier including a child supporting flexible pouch and an integral harness, wherein the harness includes adjustable shoulder straps and an adjustable girth strap and said pouch has draw cord means for adjusting the configuration of the pouch, wherein said adjustable shoulder straps including first and second straps respectively extending diagonally across the pouch from points of attachment proximate top and bottom left and right corners of the blank, and wherein a bottom edge of the blank is folded over to form a sheath slidably to accommodate the girth strap, said girth strap having complimentary coupling members adjustably located toward the outer free ends thereof to permit said girth to be coupled to provide a lower torso encircling loop.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of an infant carrier of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear view of the carrier shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front view of a person supporting the infant carrier slung in a frontal position;

FIG. 4 is a rear view of the person shown in FIG. 1 and;

FIG. 5 is a front view of a person supporting the infant carrier slung in a side supporting position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The infant carrier of the invention comprises a pouch 1 of fabric or like flexible material. The pouch is advantageously made from a blank of canvas, cloth or like material but can also be a fabric of synthetic fibers. The pouch is shaped from a blank having an upper margin 2, a lower margin 3 and side margins 4 and 5. A girth strap 6 extends laterally outwardly from the lower margin 3 and has complimentary buckle portions 7, 8 attached to opposite ends thereof. The girth strap 6 is advantageously encased in and extends through a sheath or sleeve 9 formed by folding over the lower margin and attaching the folded over portion to the main body portion of the blank by stitching. In this manner the girth strap is free to slide within the sheath permitting transverse movement of the pouch 1 along the girth strap 6. As will be explained hereinafter, this finds particular advantage when switching the infant carrier from a position of frontal support to a position of side support. Notwithstanding this preferred mode of attaching the girth strap 6 to the pouch 1, other means of attachment, such as stitching would be possible if somewhat less convenient in use.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.