CLAIMS

1. An umbrella comprising:

an elongated shaft having a first end and an opposite second end;

a runner slidably disposed about the elongated shaft; and

a rib assembly including a plurality of sets of ribs that are coupled to the runner by a plurality of struts that move between open and closed positions in which in the open position, the plurality of the sets of ribs are in an open, extended position and in the closed position, the plurality of the sets of ribs are in a closed, collapsed position, each set of ribs including a first rib, a second rib, and a third rib, the first rib being pivotally attached to the elongated shaft and the third rib being a distal rib;

a first rib joint pivotally attaching the first rib to the second rib;

a second rib joint pivotally attaching the second rib to the third rib;

a plurality of anti-inversion spring elements, each anti-inversion spring element being disposed along a length of one second rib, the anti-inversion spring element having a first end that is fixedly attached to the first rib joint and a free opposite second end, the anti-inversion element having a coiled section through which the second rib extends, the anti-inversion spring element being configured to apply to the rib assembly a force that counters an inversion force that is applied to the umbrella; and

a flexible wire having a first end attached to the second end of the anti-inversion spring element and a second end attached to a tip that is located at a free distal end of the third rib.

2. An umbrella according to Claim 1, in which the anti-inversion spring element is disposed along an underside of the second rib, with the second end thereof being spaced from the underside of the second rib when the sets of ribs are in the open, extended position, the anti-inversion spring element applying a biasing force through use of the wire to resist inversion of the umbrella.

3. An umbrella according to Claim 1, in which the first end of the anti-inversion spring element includes a hook that mates with an opening in one end of the first rib joint to securely attach the anti-inversion spring element to the first rib joint, while allowing a length of the

anti-inversion spring element that is measured from the coiled section to the second end to be spaced from the second rib.

4. An umbrella according to Claim 1, in which the second end of the wire includes a hook member defined by a looped section of the wire that receives a loop at the first end of the wire for releasably attaching the first end and the second end together.

5. An umbrella according to Claim 1, in which the wire comprises a nylon coated stainless steel wire.

6. An umbrella according to Claim 1, in which the tip comprises an elongated body having first and second ends and a main opening, extending longitudinally along a length thereof and open at the first end, for receiving the third rib and a connector formed along an outer surface of the elongated body of the tip between the first and second ends, the outer surface of the elongated body having a groove formed therein, in which the second end of the wire is disposed within the groove and passes through a through hole formed in the connector as it extends to the second end of the anti-inversion spring element.

7. An umbrella according to Claim 6, in which the connector comprises a tubular structure with the through hole extending centrally therethrough.

8. An umbrella according to Claim 1, further including a reinforcing member in the form of an elongated wire structure that has a first end that is attached to the first rib and a second end that is attached to the second rib joint, the reinforcing member having an intermediate coiled section that is disposed about the second rib.

9. An umbrella according to Claim 1, in which in the open, extended position, the anti-inversion spring element is disposed substantially below the second rib and the wire is disposed substantially below the third rib.

10. An umbrella according to Claim 1, further including: (1) a handle at the second end of the elongated shaft, the handle including a first body part having a first opening; and (2) a looped strap having a connector, in which a bayonet mount is formed between the connector and the first opening of the first body part to allow the looped strap to be releasably attached to the handle.

11. An umbrella according to Claim 10, in which the connector includes a pair of opposing protrusions formed along a cap structure and the first body part includes a female housing that defines the first opening that includes a pair of opposing notches that receive the opposing protrusions.

12. An umbrella according to Claim 11, in which the first body part includes a handle cover and a spring, the handle cover being received within a hollow interior of the female housing and the spring applying a force against the handle cover such that in a rest position, the handle cover closes off the first opening when the looped strap is removed from the handle.