I claim:

1. A uni-directional rigidifier formed from a flexible tension member, said tension member defining an arcuate elongated shape, said tension member further defining a lateral slit, said lateral slit closing upon flexing said tension member in one direction and opening said lateral slit upon flexing said tension member in an opposite direction.

2. The tension member of claim 1 further defining a U-shaped cross-section.

3. The tension member of claim 1 wherein said tension member defines an additional lateral slit.

4. The tension member of claim 1 further comprising a flat lip, said lip extending longitudinally therealong.

5. The tension member of claim 1 formed from twenty gauge steel.

6. The tension member of claim 1 wherein said tension member defines an opening, said opening for affixing said tension member to a foldable sofa mattress.

7. The tension member of claim 1 further defining a pair of opposing slit apertures, said pair of opposing slit apertures in communication with said lateral slit.

8. The tension member of claim 7 further defining a pair of opposing openings, said pair of opposing openings

positioned in opposing parallel relation to said pair of opposing slit apertures.

9. The tension member of claim 8 further comprising a pair of opposing lips, said pair of opposing lips extending longitudinally therealong.

10. A foldable mattress, said mattress comprising a first section and a second section, said second section foldable atop said first section, said second section comprising a uni-directional rigidifier formed from a flexible tension member, said tension member defining an arcuate, elongated shape and a lateral slit, said tension member defining a U-shaped cross section, said U-shape upright when said second section is folded atop said first section and said U-shape is inverted when said second section is unfolded and extended.

11. The foldable mattress of claim 10 wherein said tension member further comprises a flat lip, said flat lip extending longitudinally therealong.

12. The foldable mattress of claim 11 wherein said tension member further comprises a slit aperture, said slit aperture in communication with said lateral slit.

13. The foldable mattress of claim 11 wherein said first section comprises a flexible tension member, said first section tension member defining an arcuate, elongated shape, a lateral slit, and a U-shaped cross section, said first section U-shape inverted.

14. A method of utilizing a foldable mattress having first and second sections, the second section having a uni-directional rigidifier formed from a slitted flexible tension member comprising the steps of:
    a) extending the second section from the first section;
    b) applying pressure to the extended second section; and
    c) flexing the tension member to close the slitted tension member.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of releasing pressure from the second section and allowing the slitted tension member to open.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of folding the second section atop the first section.

CLAIMS

1. A uni-directional rigidifier formed from a flexible tension member, said tension member defining an arcuate elongated shape, said tension member defining a lateral slit and a pair of opposing slit apertures, said pair of opposing slit apertures in communication with said lateral slit, said lateral slit closing upon flexing said tension member in one direction and opening said lateral slit upon flexing said tension member in an opposite direction.

2. The tension member of claim 1 further defining a U-shaped cross-section.

3. The tension member of claim 1 wherein said tension member defines an additional lateral slit.

4. The tension member of claim 1 further comprising a flat lip, said lip extending longitudinally therealong.

5. The tension member of claim 1 formed from twenty gauge steel.

6. The tension member of claim 1 wherein said tension member defines an opening, said opening for affixing said tension member to a foldable sofa mattress.

7. The tension member of claim 1 further defining a pair of opposing openings, said pair of opposing openings positioned in opposing parallel relation to said pair of opposing slit apertures.

8. The tension member of claim 7 further comprising a pair of opposing lips, said pair of opposing lips extending longitudinally therealong.

9. The tension member of claim 1 whereby said arcuate elongated shape defines a continuous edge.

10. The tension member of claim 1 defining three lateral slits and a pair of opposing slit apertures in communication with each lateral slit.

11. The tension member of claim 1 wherein said slit apertures each define a radius greater than a width of the slit.