

Handle

This invention relates to a handle which can be attached to a load to facilitate carrying of the load.

Many loads have to be carried by hand, yet are not provided with handles, or only with inadequate handles.

- 5 Tins of paint with wire handles, or plastics carrier bags are examples. When these loads are heavy, the handles bite into the hands and become uncomfortable and difficult to carry.

- According to the invention, there is provided a handle
10 having a grip portion and a strap portion formed in a single piece of bendable and twistable material, the strap portion having a free end with a terminal enlargement in the form of a T-bar at right angles to its length, and another part of the handle, between
15 the grip portion and the terminal enlargement having a slot so that when the strap portion is turned back on itself, the free end can be detachably connected to said another part of the handle to form a loop, the free end being placed through the slot so that the T-bar engages
20 behind the slot.

Such a handle can be used to supplement an existing, uncomfortable handle on a load, or can provide a handle for a load which previously did not have a handle at all.

- 25 Preferably the grip portion (hereinafter referred to as the grip) is at right angles to the plane of the loop formed when the strap portion (hereinafter referred to as the strap) is bent back on itself. The grip will thus, in use, be parallel to the part of a load to which
30 the strap is attached.

The handle is made in one piece and can conveniently be a single plastics moulding.

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If the grip includes an opening through which the carrier's fingers project, the slot may extend from that opening. It is advantageous if the slot has angled sides, with the wider part of the slot at the bottom.

- 5 This helps to prevent accidental release of the free end of the strap.

- The strap may have a central region wider than its two ends. This will spread the weight of the load over a wide area of the load. If the wide central region also
10 includes an elongate slot extending in the direction of the length of the strap, the parts of the strap on either side of the slot will tend to approach one another when under load so that the strap takes up a curved configuration where the load passes over it. This
15 again helps to spread the weight of the load over a wide area of the load and also reduces the risk of damage to the load which might be caused by the edges of the strap biting into the load.

- The invention will now be further described, by way of
20 example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front view of a handle according to the invention;

- 25 Figure 2 is a side view of the handle shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is another side view showing the strap turned back on itself to form a loop; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the handle in use.

- 30 The handle shown has a grip 10 and a strap 12. The strap and grip are both made in one piece, and meet each other

in an area 14. The handle can be injection moulded in a suitable plastics such as polyethylene or polypropylene.

5 The grip has an upper bar 16 which is somewhat thicker than the rest of the handle, as can be seen in Figures 2 and 3, to make it comfortable to hold. The fingers are inserted through a hole 18 and grip around the upper bar which is shaped to locate convenient positions for four fingers.

10 The strap 12 has a free end 20 remote from the area 14, and a central region 22. The central region 22 is wider than either end of the strap and has a slot 24 formed in it. At the free end 20, a T-bar 26 is formed. This may also be thicker than the rest of the strap.

15 Below the upper bar 16 of the grip, a slot 28 is formed. The base 30 of this slot is wider than the free end of the strap above the T-bar, but the opening 32 of the slot is narrower.

20 In use, the free end 20 of the strap is passed around a load to be carried or through a convenient opening in the load. The strap is then turned back on itself, and the free end is engaged in the slot 28. To do this, because of the relative dimensions of the slot opening and the strap, it is necessary to twist the strap so that it enters the slot with one edge leading. Once 25 through the opening, the strap can untwist to the position shown in Figure 4 and will not be able to come out of the slot unless it is first twisted again.

30 The load can then be lifted. As can be seen in Figure 4, the parts of the central region 22 on either side of the slot 24 will move towards each other and provide a curved surface to come in contact with the load. There will then be no hard edges of the strap cutting into the load. The provision of the slot 24 also helps to reduce

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the amount of material needed to form the handle.

The fact that the strap forms a closed loop in use is also important, because it will help to keep a bag closed, or help to keep a bundle together. In fact, the

- 5 handle can provide a dual function in relation to a coil of e.g. hosepipe or electric cable in holding the coil together and giving the coil a handle by which it can be carried or hung on a hook.

- 10 The strap can clearly be of any suitable length, depending on the application for which it is intended. The grip portion does not have to be the shape shown in the drawing; instead a T-bar or other shape could be adopted.

CLAIMS



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1. A handle having a grip portion and a strap portion formed in a single piece of bendable and twistable material, the strap portion having a free end with a terminal enlargement in the form of a T-bar at right angles to its length, and another part of the handle ,
5 between the grip portion and the terminal enlargement having a slot so that when the strap portion is turned back on itself, the free end can be detachably connected to said another part of the handle to form a loop, the
10 free end being placed through the slot so that the T-bar engages behind the slot.
 2. A handle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the grip portion is arranged at right angles to the plane of the loop which will be formed, in use, when the strap
15 portion is turned back on itself.
 3. A handle as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the grip portion includes an opening through which the carrier's fingers can project, and the slot extends from that opening.
 - 20 4. A handle as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the slot has angled sides with the wider part of the slot at the bottom.
 5. A handle as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the strap portion has a central region which is wider
25 than regions on either side of the central region.
 6. A handle as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the wider central region includes an elongate slot extending in the direction of the length of the strap portion.
 7. A handle substantially as herein described with
30 reference to the accompanying drawings.
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