Claims

1. A substantially U-shaped travel pillow (10), comprising:

a first side portion comprising a first inner surface (21,31);

a second side portion comprising a second inner surface (21,31), said second inner surface facing said first inner surface; and

a rear portion (37) between said first and second side portions, said rear portion (37) comprising a third inner surface and a rear surface (27,34);

wherein said rear surface (27,34) is substantially flat.

2. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said rear portion (37) is thinner than each of said two side portions.

3. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said pillow (10) defines a base cushion (20) and a raised cushion (30).

4. The pillow of claim 1, further comprising a filler material (110) between said third inner surface and said rear surface (27,34).

5. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said travel pillow (10) is substantially U-shaped such that each of said first and second side portions is approximately at a right angle with said rear portion (37).

6. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said pillow (10) comprises an adjustment feature (70) such that said first and second side portions may be brought into mutual contact.

7. The pillow of claim 1, further comprising a heating element.

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8. The pillow of claim 1, further comprising a removable cover (40).

9. The pillow of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second side portions comprises a pocket (100).

10. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said rear portion (37) is shaped to define a chin support (170) when said pillow (10) is used in a 180-degrees rotated position.

11. A pillow (10) comprising:

a substantially U-shaped base cushion (20) comprising a base inner peripheral wall (21), one or more base outer peripheral walls (29), and a base rear wall (27); and

a substantially U-shaped raised cushion (30) on a top side (28) of said base cushion (20), said raised cushion (30) comprising a raised inner peripheral wall (31), one or more raised outer peripheral walls (39), and a raised rear wall (34);

wherein said base rear wall (27) and said raised rear wall (34) are mutually flush and substantially flat.

12. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised cushion (30) is integral with said base cushion (20).

13. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said base inner peripheral wall (21) and said raised inner peripheral wall (31) are mutually flush.

14. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised cushion (30) defines two cut-outs (90) in said raised inner peripheral wall (31).

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15. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised inner peripheral wall (31) and said raised rear wall (34) collectively at least partially define a raised rear portion (37);

wherein said raised inner peripheral wall (31) and said one or more raised outer peripheral walls (39) collectively at least partially define one or more raised side portions (35); and

wherein said raised rear portion (37) is thinner than each of said one or more raised side portions (35).

16. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised cushion (30) is on less than all of said top side (28) of said base cushion (20).

17. A pillow (10), comprising:

a substantially U-shaped base cushion (20) comprising a base rear portion and first and second base side portions; and

a substantially U-shaped raised cushion (30) comprising a raised rear portion and first and second raised side portions (35);

wherein said raised rear portion (37) is thinner than each of said first and second raised side portions (35).

18. The pillow of claim 17, wherein said base rear portion is thinner than each of said first and second base side portions.

19. The pillow of claim 17, wherein said base rear portion comprises a base rear wall (27) and said raised rear portion (37) comprises a raised rear wall (34);

wherein said base rear wall (27) and said raised rear wall (34) are mutually flush.

20. The pillow of claim 17, wherein said base rear wall (27) and said raised rear wall (34) are substantially flat.

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U.S. Patent No. 6,230,349 to Silver et al. on May 15th, 2001, describes a travel pillow having a compact size and U-shape for cradling the head and neck of a user while sitting. This device is adapted to allow the user to allow or remove fill material in order to adjust firmness. While this invention is capable of providing neck support, it does not provide adequate neck support in left, right, and forward positions. Furthermore, this travel pillow will force the person's head forward, causing neck strain, as there is no support in the front. The lobes, moreover, are not tall enough, and the lobes will split out if one's head falls left or right.

U.S. Patent No. 4,345,347 to Kantor on August 24th, 1982, describes a cushion having a U-shaped portion for supporting the head and neck of a user while sitting. This device is adapted to accept a sleeve to cover parts of the cushion that will touch skin or hair, and includes weights for balancing the device on the shoulders. While this invention is capable of providing neck support, it does not provide adequate neck support in left, right, and forward positions and is not adapted to prevent an extreme forward head position.

U.S. Patent No. 98,859 to Fast on January 18th, 1870, describes a travel pillow having a cushion for promoting the comfort of passengers while traveling. This device comprises an inflatable semi-circular cushion and a strap adapted to form the cushion around the neck by applying downward force with the arms. While this invention is capable of providing neck support, it does not provide adequate neck support in left, right, and forward positions and is not adapted to prevent an extreme forward head position.

U.S. Design Patent No. D619,402 S to Sternlight describes an ornamental design for a travel pillow.

CLAIMS

1. A substantially U-shaped travel pillow, comprising:

a first base side portion comprising a first base inner surface;

a second base side portion comprising a second base inner surface, said second base inner surface facing said first base inner surface; and

a base rear portion between said first and second base side portions, said base rear portion comprising a base rear inner surface and a base rear outer surface;

a first raised side potion on said first base side portion and fixed with said first base side portion;

a second raised side potion on said second base side portion and fixed with said second base side portion;

a raised rear potion on said base rear portion and fixed with said base rear portion, said raised rear portion comprising a raised rear inner surface and a raised rear outer surface, said raised rear portion between said first and second raised side portions;

wherein said base rear outer surface and said raised rear outer surface are integral and mutually flush; and

wherein each of said base rear out surface and said raised rear outer surface is substantially flat from top to bottom.

2. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said base rear portion is thinner than each of said two leg base portions.

3. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said pillow defines a base cushion and a raised cushion.

4. The pillow of claim 1, further comprising a filler material between said base rear inner surface and said base rear outer surface.

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5. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said travel pillow is substantially U-shaped such that each of said first and second base side portions is approximately at a right angle with said rear portion.

6. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said pillow comprises an adjustment feature such that said first and second base side portions may be brought into mutual contact.

7. The pillow of claim 1, further comprising a heating element.

8. The pillow of claim 1, further comprising a removable cover.

9. The pillow of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second side portions comprises a pocket.

10. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said rear portion is shaped to define a chin support when said pillow is used in a 180-degrees rotated position.

11. A pillow comprising:

a substantially U-shaped base cushion comprising a base inner surface, and one or more base outer surfaces comprising a base rear wall; and

a substantially U-shaped raised cushion on a top side of said base cushion, said raised cushion comprising a raised inner surface, and one or more raised outer surfaces comprising a raised rear wall;

wherein said base rear wall and said raised rear wall are integral and mutually flush; and

wherein each of said base rear wall and said raised rear wall is substantially flat from top to bottom.

12. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised cushion is integral with said base cushion.

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13. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said base inner surface and said raised inner surface are mutually flush.

14. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised cushion defines two cut-outs in said raised inner surface.

15. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised inner surface and said raised rear wall collectively at least partially define a raised rear portion;

wherein said raised inner surface and said one or more raised outer surfaces collectively at least partially define one or more raised side portions; and

wherein said raised rear portion is thinner than each of said one or more raised side portions.

16. The pillow of claim 11, wherein said raised cushion is on less than all of said top side of said base cushion.

17. A pillow, comprising:

a substantially U-shaped base cushion comprising a base rear portion and first and second base side portions, said base rear portion comprising a base rear wall; and

a substantially U-shaped raised cushion comprising a raised rear portion and first and second raised side portions, said raised rear portion comprising a raised rear wall;

wherein said raised rear portion is thinner than each of said first and second raised side portions;

wherein said base rear wall and said raised rear wall are integral and mutually flush;

wherein each of said base rear wall and said raised rear wall is substantially flat from top to bottom.

18. The pillow of claim 17, wherein said base rear portion is thinner than each of said first and second base side portions.

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19. The pillow of claim 17, wherein said base rear portion comprises a base rear wall and said raised rear portion comprises a raised rear wall;

wherein said base rear wall and said raised rear wall are mutually flush.

20. The pillow of claim 17, wherein said base rear wall and said raised rear wall are substantially flat.

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