CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for applying a tensile load, the system comprising:

a length of a single continuous synthetic rope having first and second bitter ends;

said continuous synthetic rope being braided with itself to create a sling;

wherein when a force is applied to said sling said force is distributed over said sling such that no substantial said force is applied to said first and second bitter ends.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising markings disposed on said first and said second bitter ends showing movement of said first and second bitter ends relative to each other.

3. The system of claim 1 further comprising markings disposed on said continuous synthetic rope showing movement of said first and second bitter ends relative to said sling.

4. The system of claim 1 further comprising measurement indicia disposed along said continuous synthetic rope showing elongation of said rope.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein:

said sling has a plurality of wraps having loops at opposing ends; and

said plurality of wraps of said continuous synthetic rope having at least three parts and being braided such that the resulting braided sling has at least three picks.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said braided sling is configured such that each wrap in said plurality of wraps moves relative to other wraps within said plurality of wraps.

16. The system of claim 5 wherein the ratio of the bending strength of the sling divided by its column strength is less than 10% of a steel sling.

17. The system of claim 5 wherein said sling has a pushability such that said sling will vertically support a length of itself not less than 5 times the circumference of said sling.

18. The system of claim 5 further providing visual indicia disposed on bitter ends of said rope, such that movement of bitter ends of said continuous synthetic rope relative to each other is observable.

19. The system of claim 5 further providing visual indicia disposed on said continuous synthetic rope, such that movement of bitter ends of said continuous synthetic rope relative to said braided sling is observable.