While several travel pillows exist in the prior art, few provide adequate support for alternative head positions. Furthermore, travel pillows are notorious for forcing the head forward, causing neck strain. Finally, current travel pillows do not adequately support a front position due to the gap of the "U" shape. Therefore, there is a need for a travel pillow that can provide adequate neck support for all head positions without causing undue strain. Furthermore, a need exists for a travel pillow that will not force the head forward in a rearward position. The present invention accomplishes these objectives.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a travel pillow comprising a U-shaped, pliable base cushion with a second U-shaped raised cushion fixed to the top side of the base cushion. The inner peripheral walls of the base and raised cushions are mutually flush, providing a comfortable surface for the neck. Furthermore, the rear walls of the base and raised cushions are mutually flush and substantially flat for better contact with flat surfaces, such as a headrest, seat, or chair. The rear ~~wall~~ of the raised cushion is thinner than each side portion of the raised cushion, providing more liberty to adjust head position by easily adapting to the shape of the headrest, seat or chair. A removable cover is adapted to cover the base and raised cushions. The cover may further be reversible, where the outside of the cover has a contrasting appearance to the inside of the cover. The pillow is ergonomically designed to fit behind the neck

peripheral walls 31, 39 thereof. The rear walls 27, ~~37~~ of the base and raised cushions 20, 30 are mutually flush (FIG. 4) and substantially flat for better contact with flat surfaces, such as a headrest or chair (not shown). Furthermore, the outer peripheral wall 39 of the raised portion 30 may extend higher than the inner peripheral wall 31 of the opposing side portions 35 (FIG. 2), while the outer and inner peripheral walls 39, 31 of the rear portion 37 are substantially the same height. The rear ~~wall~~ 37 of the raised cushion 30 is thinner than each side portion 35 (FIG. 4), providing more liberty to adjust head position by easily adapting to the shape of the headrest, seat or chair.

A selectively removable fabric cover 40 is adapted to cover the base and raised cushions 20,30, and includes an opening 50 at a bottom side 42 thereof (FIG. 5). In one embodiment, the fabric cover 40 is reversible, where a first side 41 of the cover 40 has a contrasting appearance to a second side 42 (FIG. 1) of the cover 40. In an alternative embodiment, the base cushion 20 and the raised cushion 30 are selectively mutually detachable (FIG. 3) at a first attachment mechanism 130, such as a zipper (not shown), two-part hook-and-loop type material 150, button, and/or mechanical snap 160. As such, the fabric cover 40 is adapted to cover the base cushion 20, while a second fabric cover 140 (FIG. 3) is adapted to cover the raised cushion 30. The fabric cover 40 may be machine washable, so as to allow for cleaning of the cover 40 from sweat or other grime.

The raised cushion 30 includes a pair of opposing recesses 90 (FIG. 1) or semi-circular cut-outs (not shown) on the inner peripheral wall 31 of each side portion 35, whereby the raised cushion 30 does not interfere with a person wearing headphones. Furthermore, the outer peripheral wall 29 of the base cushion 20 includes at least one

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A travel pillow comprising:

a U-shaped, pliable base cushion having a top side, a bottom side, an outer peripheral wall, an inner peripheral wall, a pair of opposing front walls, and a rear wall;

a U-shaped raised cushion having a top side, a bottom side, an outer peripheral wall, an inner peripheral wall, all defining a rear portion and two opposing side portions of the raised cushion, the raised cushion fixed with the top side of the base cushion, the rear wall of the raised cushion being thinner than each side portion of the raised cushion; and

a selectively removable fabric cover adapted to cover the base and raised cushions and including an opening at a bottom side thereof;

wherein the rear walls of the base and raised cushions are mutually flush and substantially flat.

2. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the outer peripheral wall of the raised cushion extends higher than the inner peripheral wall of the raised cushion.

3. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the inner peripheral walls of the base and raised cushions are mutually flush.

4. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the top side of the raised cushion is substantially flat.

5. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the top side of the raised cushion is curved between the inner and outer peripheral walls thereof.

6. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the top side of the raised cushion is sloped between the inner and outer peripheral walls thereof.

7. The travel pillow of claim 1 further including a drawstring having opposing ends, each end fixed proximate one of the front walls of the base cushion, the drawstring including an adjustable cinch mechanism for adjusting the tension in the drawstring.

8. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the raised cushion includes a pair of opposing recesses on the inner peripheral wall of each side portion, whereby the raised cushion does not interfere with a person wearing headphones.

9. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the outer peripheral wall of the base cushion includes at least one pocket for holding an item.

10. The travel pillow of claim 7 wherein the cinch mechanism of the drawstring may be adjusted until the front peripheral walls of the base cushion are brought into mutual contact.

11. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the base cushion and raised cushions are integrally formed from a foam material.

12. The travel pillow of claim 11 wherein the foam material is a memory foam material.

13. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the bottom side of the base cushion includes a pocket for receiving a second item.

14. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the fabric cover is reversible, the wherein a first side of the cover has a contrasting appearance to a second side of the cover.

15. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the base cushion and the raised cushion are selectively mutually detachable at an attachment mechanism, and wherein the fabric cover is adapted to cover the base cushion, and wherein a second fabric cover is adapted to cover the raised cushion.

16. The travel pillow of claim 15 wherein the attachment mechanism includes a two-part hook-and-loop type fastening material.

17. The travel pillow of claim 15 wherein the attachment mechanism includes at least one mechanical snap.

18. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the raised cushion is ergonomically shaped to support the head and neck without strain.

19. The travel pillow of claim 1 wherein the rear wall is substantially flat.

While several travel pillows exist in the prior art, few provide adequate support for alternative head positions. Furthermore, travel pillows are notorious for forcing the head forward, causing neck strain. Finally, current travel pillows do not adequately support a front position due to the gap of the "U" shape. Therefore, there is a need for a travel pillow that can provide adequate neck support for all head positions without causing undue strain. Furthermore, a need exists for a travel pillow that will not force the head forward in a rearward position. The present invention accomplishes these objectives.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a travel pillow comprising a U-shaped, pliable base cushion with a second U-shaped raised cushion fixed to the top side of the base cushion. The inner peripheral walls of the base and raised cushions are mutually flush, providing a comfortable surface for the neck. Furthermore, the rear walls of the base and raised cushions are mutually flush and substantially flat for better contact with flat surfaces, such as a headrest, seat, or chair. The rear portion of the raised cushion is thinner than each side portion of the raised cushion, providing more liberty to adjust head position by easily adapting to the shape of the headrest, seat or chair. A removable cover is adapted to cover the base and raised cushions. The cover may further be reversible, where the outside of the cover has a contrasting appearance to the inside of the cover. The pillow is ergonomically designed to fit behind the neck

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and the claims, the words "comprise," "comprising," and the like are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense; that is to say, in the sense of "including, but not limited to." Words using the singular or plural number also include the plural or singular number respectively. Additionally, the words "herein," "above," "below" and words of similar import, when used in this application, shall refer to this application as a whole and not to any particular portions of this application. When the claims use the word "or" in reference to a list of two or more items, that word covers all of the following interpretations of the word: any of the items in the list, all of the items in the list and any combination of the items in the list.

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a travel pillow 10 comprising a U-shaped, pliable base cushion 20 having a top side 28, bottom side 22, outer peripheral wall 29, inner peripheral wall 21, rear wall 27, and a pair of opposing front walls 23. A U-shaped raised cushion 30 is fixed to the top side 28 of the base cushion 20. The raised cushion 30 comprises a top side 38, bottom side 32, rear wall 34 (FIG. 5), outer peripheral wall 39, and inner peripheral wall 31, all defining a rear portion 37 and two opposing side portions 35 of the raised cushion 30 (FIG. 4). The inner peripheral walls 21, 31 of the base and raised cushions 20, 30 are mutually flush, providing a comfortable surface for the neck.

The top side 38 of the base cushion 20 is substantially flat, while the top side 38 of the raised cushion 30 is curved (FIG. 2) or flat (FIG. 3) between the inner and outer

peripheral walls 31, 39 thereof. The rear walls 27, 34 of the base and raised cushions 20, 30 are mutually flush (FIG. 4) and substantially flat for better contact with flat surfaces, such as a headrest or chair (not shown). Furthermore, the outer peripheral wall 39 of the raised portion 30 may extend higher than the inner peripheral wall 31 of the opposing side portions 35 (FIG. 2), while the outer and inner peripheral walls 39, 31 of the rear portion 37 are substantially the same height. The rear portion 37 of the raised cushion 30 is thinner than each side portion 35 (FIG. 4), providing more liberty to adjust head position by easily adapting to the shape of the headrest, seat or chair.

A selectively removable fabric cover 40 is adapted to cover the base and raised cushions 20,30, and includes an opening 50 at a bottom side 42 thereof (FIG. 5). In one embodiment, the fabric cover 40 is reversible, where a first side 41 of the cover 40 has a contrasting appearance to a second side 42 (FIG. 1) of the cover 40. In an alternative embodiment, the base cushion 20 and the raised cushion 30 are selectively mutually detachable (FIG. 3) at a first attachment mechanism 130, such as a zipper (not shown), two-part hook-and-loop type material 150, button, and/or mechanical snap 160. As such, the fabric cover 40 is adapted to cover the base cushion 20, while a second fabric cover 140 (FIG. 3) is adapted to cover the raised cushion 30. The fabric cover 40 may be machine washable, so as to allow for cleaning of the cover 40 from sweat or other grime.

The raised cushion 30 includes a pair of opposing recesses 90 (FIG. 1) or semi-circular cut-outs (not shown) on the inner peripheral wall 31 of each side portion 35, whereby the raised cushion 30 does not interfere with a person wearing headphones. Furthermore, the outer peripheral wall 29 of the base cushion 20 includes at least one

Claims

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

a first side portion comprising a first inner surface;

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

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

wherein said rear surface is substantially flat.

2. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said rear portion is thinner than each of said two leg 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 third inner surface and said rear surface.

5. The pillow of claim 1, wherein said travel pillow is substantially U-shaped such that each of said first and second 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 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 peripheral wall, one or more base outer peripheral walls, and 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 peripheral wall, one or more raised outer peripheral walls, and a raised rear wall;

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

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

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

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

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

wherein said raised inner peripheral wall and said one or more raised outer peripheral walls 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; and

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

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

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 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.