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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/11832 (22) International Filing Date: 27 May 1999 (27.05.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/088,112 5 June 1998 (05.06.98) US 09/315,999 21 May 1999 (21.05.99) US (71) Applicant: SOUTHCO, INC. [US/US]; 210 North Brinton Lake Road, Concordville, PA 19331 (US). (72) Inventor: TIEU, Loc, B.; 318 Biddle Drive, Exton, PA 19341 (US). (74) Agents: TAUFER, Paul, A. et al.; Paul & Paul, 2900 Two Thousand Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (US).		(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BR, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, ID, IL, IN, JP, KR, LU, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RU, SE, SG, SI, TR, UA, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: LATCH ASSEMBLY (57) Abstract A latch assembly comprises a handle (12) and a shaft (14). The handle (12) includes a surface (26) having a plurality of ribs (40d, 40e) that are engaged by the shaft (14) in operation. The ribs (40d, 40e) alone and in combination with the shaft (14) can provide a variety of features, including retaining the assembled position of the handle (12) and shaft (14), limiting sideways movement of the shaft (14) during assembly and in operation, supporting the shaft (14) during pivotal movement of the handle (12) in operation and as a grip for an operator.		