

VEHICLE CHILD SAFETY SEAT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The invention relates to a vehicle child safety seat in which a shoulder pad is attached to a seat belt.

2. Description of Related Art

0 [0002] Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2003-276559 (JP2003-276559 A) describes a shoulder pad for a seat belt provided in a vehicle child safety seat. The shoulder pad includes a body portion positioned below a shoulder strap (shoulder harness) so as to abut against a shoulder of a child occupant, a tether strap for attachment to a seat back, and a biforked yoke for connecting the body portion to the tether
5 strap. The shoulder harness is passed through the biforked yoke, and the tether strap extends above the shoulder harness toward a rear side of the seat. Further, the shoulder pad is partially enclosed by a fabric cover.

[0003] The shoulder pad is configured such that, in the event of an accident, a friction-increasing surface provided in the body portion is engaged with the shoulder
1 harness. This increases a frictional resistance to the shoulder harness, thereby limiting a forward movement of the child. Further, the shoulder pad is configured such that the fabric cover partially covering the shoulder pad prevents the shoulder pad from being displaced in a lateral direction (displaced in a width direction) with respect to the shoulder harness.

[0004] From the description of JP2003-276559 A, it is not apparent whether the shoulder pad is integrated with the fabric cover or not. However, at least a weak fabric cover may not be able to sufficiently restrain displacement of the shoulder pad in the width direction with respect to the shoulder harness. When the shoulder pad is displaced in the width direction with respect to the shoulder harness, a function of the shoulder pad may not

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be demonstrated sufficiently. On that account, there is room to improve this point.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The invention provides a vehicle child safety seat that is able to effectively
5 restrain displacement of a shoulder pad in a width direction with respect to a shoulder
harness, regardless of whether or not the shoulder pad is integrated with a harness cover.

[0006] A first aspect of the invention relates to a vehicle child safety seat. The
vehicle child safety seat includes: a seat main body on which an occupant sits; a seat belt
for restraining the occupant to the seat main body, the seat belt including a shoulder
0 harness having a long belt shape and facing a shoulder of the occupant; a harness cover
formed in an elongated pouch shape and slidably attached to the shoulder harness in a
longitudinal direction such that the shoulder harness is passed through paired insertion
holes formed on respective end portions of the harness cover in the longitudinal direction;
and a shoulder pad formed in an elongated shape, accommodated in the harness cover,
5 placed between the shoulder of the occupant and the shoulder harness along the
longitudinal direction of the shoulder harness, and including paired connection portions
provided on respective end portions of the shoulder pad in the longitudinal direction so as
to connected to the shoulder harness slidably in the longitudinal direction.

[0007] In the above aspect, the paired insertion holes are formed in the respective
1 end portions of the harness cover in the longitudinal direction which harness cover is
formed in an elongated pouch shape. The shoulder harness is passed through these
insertion holes. Hereby, the harness cover is attached to the shoulder harness slidably in
the longitudinal direction. The shoulder pad formed in an elongated shape is
accommodated inside the harness cover. Further, the paired connection portions provided
6 on respective end portions of the shoulder pad in the longitudinal direction are connected
to the shoulder harness slidably in the longitudinal direction. Thus, the shoulder pad is
connected to the shoulder harness at the respective end portions of the shoulder pad in the
longitudinal direction, separately from the harness cover. Hereby, regardless of whether
or not the shoulder pad is integrated with the harness cover, it is possible to effectively

restrain displacement of the shoulder pad in the width direction with respect to the shoulder harness. Further, both of the harness cover and the shoulder pad are slidable relative to the shoulder harness in the longitudinal direction. This makes it possible to easily adjust positions of the harness cover and the shoulder pad relative to the shoulder of the occupant.

- 5 [0008] In the above aspect, the shoulder pad may include: a hold member formed of a material having a flexibility, and including a tabular portion formed in an elongated plate shape and a plurality of hold portions provided on a shoulder-harness-side surface of the tabular portion so as to be placed side by side at intervals therebetween in a longitudinal direction of the tabular portion; and a plurality of hard members each formed of a material that is harder than the hold member, the plurality of hard members being respectively held by the plurality of hold portions, and the connection portions may be provided respectively in paired hard members placed on respective end portions of the tabular portion in the longitudinal direction.

- 5 [0009] In the above aspect, the shoulder pad placed between the shoulder of the occupant and the shoulder harness includes the hold member and the plurality of hard members. The hold member includes the tabular portion having an elongated plate shape. The plurality of hard members is held by the plurality of hold portions provided on the shoulder-harness-side surface of the tabular portion. Among these hard members, the paired hard members placed on respective end portions of the tabular portion in the longitudinal direction are respectively provided with the connection portions. The connection portions are slidably connected to the shoulder harness.

- 1 [0010] In the above aspect, the tabular portion of the hold member is placed between the plurality of hard members and the shoulder of the occupant. This makes it possible to inhibit the occupant from feeling uncomfortable due to rough texture of the plurality of hard members. Besides, the hold member is formed of a material having a flexibility. This allows those parts of the tabular portion which are placed between the plurality of hard members to function as hinges. This accordingly allows the tabular portion to fit the shoulder of the occupant successfully. As a result, it is possible to ensure comfortability to the occupant. Further, at the time of a vehicle crash, it is possible

to support a load from the shoulder of the occupant successfully by the plurality of hard members placed between the shoulder harness and the tabular portion. This makes it possible to achieve a successful occupant restraint performance. Further, the plurality of hard members makes contact with the shoulder harness. This makes it possible to reduce a sliding resistance (frictional resistance) caused when the shoulder pad slides over the shoulder harness. Further, by modifying the material and the shape of the plurality of hard members appropriately, it is possible to easily set and change an energy absorption property.

[0011] In the above aspect, each of the connection portions may include an inner guide portion facing an occupant-side surface of the shoulder harness, and an outer guide portion facing that surface of the shoulder harness which is an opposite side to the occupant, and the outer guide portion may be deviated toward a center of the tabular portion in the longitudinal direction relative to the inner guide portion.

[0012] In the above aspect, the connection portions of the shoulder pad each include the inner guide portion and the outer guide portion. The inner guide portion faces the occupant-side surface of the shoulder harness, and the outer guide portion faces that surface of the shoulder harness which is an opposite side to the occupant. That is, the shoulder harness is slidably passed through between the inner guide portion and the outer guide portion. This allows the shoulder pad to be connected to the shoulder harness successfully. Besides, a counter-occupant-side guide is deviated toward the center of the tabular portion of the hold member in the longitudinal direction relative to an occupant-side guide. This makes it possible to reduce a sliding resistance caused when the shoulder pad slides over the shoulder harness.

[0013] In the above aspect, the outer guide portion may be constituted by paired guide claws separated from each other in a width direction of the shoulder harness.

[0014] In the above aspect, the outer guide portion provided in the connection portion of the shoulder pad and facing that surface of the shoulder harness which is an opposite side to the occupant is constituted by the paired guide claws separated from each other in the width direction of the shoulder harness. Hereby, when the shoulder harness is

connected to the connection portion of the shoulder pad; an intermediate part of the shoulder harness in the longitudinal direction is able to be inserted between the paired guide claws. Accordingly, it is possible to easily perform a connection operation (attachment and removal operations of the shoulder pad).

5 [0015] In the above aspect, the inner guide portion may be provided with a guide surface inclined or curved so that its projection height from the tabular portion is decreased as the guide surface goes toward a center of the hold member in the longitudinal direction.

 [0016] In the above aspect, the inner guide portion provided in the connection portion of the shoulder pad is provided with the guide surface inclined or curved so that its
10 projection height from the tabular portion is decreased as the guide surface goes toward the center of the hold member in the longitudinal direction, that is, toward a side where the outer guide portion is deviated. The guide surface makes slide contact with the shoulder harness passed through between the inner guide portion and the outer guide portion. This makes it possible to effectively decrease a sliding resistance of the shoulder pad with
5 respect to the shoulder harness.

 [0017] In the above aspect, the harness cover may be provided with window portions via which connection states of the shoulder harness with respect to the connection portions are observed.

 [0018] In the above aspect, it is possible to observe the connection states of the
10 shoulder harness with respect to the connection portions of the shoulder pad accommodated in the harness cover, via the window portions of the harness cover. This makes it possible to easily check whether or not the shoulder pad is connected to the shoulder harness appropriately.

 [0019] In the above aspect, the connection portions may have a color different
5 from that of the shoulder harness.

 [0020] In the above aspect, the connection portions of the shoulder pad have a color different from that of the shoulder harness connected to the connection portions. Hereby, it is possible to easily observe the connection states of the shoulder harness with respect to the connection portions, via the window portions of the harness cover.

[0021] In the above aspect, the window portions may be the insertion holes.

[0022] In the above aspect, the insertion holes, in the harness cover, through which the shoulder harness is passed are provided as the window portions via which the connection states of the shoulder harness with respect to the connection portions of the shoulder pad are observed. Thus, since the insertion holes doubles as the window portions, it is possible to simplify the configuration of the harness cover.

[0023] In the above aspect, the inner guide portion may have paired side walls extended in a rib shape from respective end portions of the inner guide portion.

[0024] In the above aspect, each of the side walls may have an engaging portion to be fitted to its corresponding hold portion, the engaging portion being projecting from that surface of the each of the side walls which is an opposite side to the inner guide portion.

[0025] In the above aspect, a distance between the tabular portion and a contact face, to the shoulder harness, of a hard member placed between the paired hard members respectively provided with the connection portions may be larger than a distance between the tabular portion and a contact face of the outer guide portion to the shoulder harness.

[0026] In the above aspect, the harness cover may be provided with window portions via which connection states of the shoulder harness with respect to the connection portions are observed, and each of the window portions may be formed at a position faced its corresponding paired guide claws.

[0027] In the above aspect, each of the window portions may be formed at a position faced a position where its corresponding paired guide claws are separated from each other.

[0028] As discussed above, according to the first aspect of the invention, it is possible to effectively restrain displacement of the shoulder pad with respect to the shoulder harness in the width direction, regardless of whether or not the shoulder pad is integrated with the harness cover.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0029] Features, advantages, and technical and industrial significance of exemplary embodiments of the invention will be described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals denote like elements, and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating a state where a vehicle child safety seat is
5 attached to a vehicle seat, when viewed from a diagonal front side;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a vehicle child safety seat according to an embodiment of the invention, when viewed from a diagonal rear side;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view illustrating a partial configuration of the vehicle child safety seat according to the embodiment of the invention, and illustrating a state where an
10 occupant is restrained by a seat belt of the vehicle child safety seat, when viewed from a seat-width direction;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view illustrating a harness cover included in the vehicle child safety seat according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the harness cover according to the embodiment of the invention and a shoulder pad accommodated in the harness cover;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of the shoulder pad according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 7 is an exploded perspective view of the shoulder pad according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a hold member, which is a constituent member of the shoulder pad according to the embodiment of the invention, when viewed from a back side thereof;

FIG. 9 is an expanded sectional view illustrating a configuration around a connection portion of a shoulder harness in the shoulder pad according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view to describe how to attach, to the shoulder harness, the harness cover that accommodates therein the shoulder pad according to the embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 11 is an enlarged perspective view illustrating a state where the shoulder harness

is passed through an insertion hole of the harness cover according to the embodiment of the invention and paired guiding claws of the shoulder pad are engaged with the shoulder harness;

FIG. 12 is a perspective view to describe a state at the time when the shoulder pad is put in and out from the harness cover attached to the shoulder harness according to the embodiment of the invention; and

FIG. 13 is a sectional view corresponding to FIG. 9 and illustrating another example of a shoulder pad in the embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0030] The following describes a vehicle child safety seat 10 according to an embodiment of the invention with reference to FIGS. 1 to 13. Note that an arrow FR shown in each drawing appropriately indicates a vehicle front direction, and an arrow UP indicates a vehicle upper direction, and an arrow W indicates a vehicle width direction.

(Overall Configuration)

[0031] As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the vehicle child safety seat 10 according to the present embodiment includes a seat main body 12. The seat main body 12 is provided with a seat belt 14, and paired right and left harness covers 16 are attached to the seat belt 14. Respective shoulder pads 18 (see FIG. 3) are accommodated inside harness covers 16. The following describes each constituent.

(Configuration of Seat Main Body 12)

[0032] The seat main body 12 includes a seat cushion 20 on which a baby or infant occupant P (see FIG. 3) sits, and a seat back 22 serving as a backrest for the occupant P. The seat main body 12 is fixed to a vehicle seat 26 via a base 24 (see FIG. 1) in accordance with ISOFIX, which is an international standard correspondence. Note that how to fix the seat main body 12 is not limited to the above. The seat main body 12 may be configured so as to be fixed to the vehicle seat 26 by means of a seat belt provided in a vehicle or the vehicle seat 26.

(Configuration of Seat Belt 14)

[0033] The seat belt 14 is intended to restrain the occupant P to the seat main body 12, and includes a crotch strap 28 and paired right and left shoulder harnesses 30 as illustrated in FIG. 1. The crotch strap 28 and the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 are formed in a long belt shape. One end portion of the crotch strap 28 in its longitudinal direction is fixed to a vicinity of a central part of the seat cushion 20, and a buckle 32 is
5 fixed to the other end portion of the crotch strap 28 in the longitudinal direction.

[0034] One end portion of the left shoulder harness 30 in its longitudinal direction is fixed to a rear end portion of the seat cushion 20 on its left side. One end portion of the right shoulder harness 30 in its longitudinal direction is fixed to a rear end portion of the
10 seat cushion 20 on its right side. Further, the other ends of the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 in the longitudinal direction are passed through paired right and left slots 34 (shoulder-harness through holes) formed in the seat back 22, and are drawn out to a back-face side of the seat back 22. A plurality of pairs (three pairs herein) of right and left slots 34 is formed side by side in a height direction of the seat back 22, so that the
15 shoulder harnesses 30 are passed through appropriate slots 34 in accordance with a sitting height of the occupant P.

[0035] As illustrated in FIG. 2, respective latching portions 30A are provided in those other end portions of the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 in the longitudinal direction which are drawn out to the back-face side of the seat back 22. The respective
20 latching portions 30A are formed in a loop shape such that the other end portions of the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 in the longitudinal direction are folded and sewn. The latching portions 30A are removably latched to a hanger 36, which is a substantially T-shaped latching metal fitting provided on the back-face side of the seat back 22. One end portion of a harness adjuster 38 in its longitudinal direction, which harness adjuster 38 is an adjusting belt, is fixed to the hanger 36. The harness adjuster 38 extends to a bottom side of the seat cushion 20. The other end portion of the harness adjuster 38 in the longitudinal direction is drawn out to a front-face side of the seat cushion 20 (see FIG. 1).

[0036] Respective tang plates 40 are slidably attached to intermediate parts of the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 in the longitudinal direction, on a front-face side of the

seat back 22. When the occupant P sitting on the seat main body 12 puts on the seat belt 14, the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 are put around right and left shoulders S (see FIG. 3), and the right and left tang plates 40 are combined and connected to the buckle 32. When the harness adjuster 38 is subsequently pulled toward a front side of the seat cushion 20, those other end portions of the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 in the longitudinal direction which are latched to the hanger 36 are pulled downward. As a result, slack of the intermediate parts in the longitudinal direction of the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 is removed. Hereby, the occupant P is in a seat belt fitting state. In this fitting state, the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 face the right and left shoulder S of the occupant P (see FIG. 3).

(Configuration of Harness Cover 16)

[0037] The right and left harness covers 16 are each formed such that a sheet material (a fabric material 46 illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5) having a flexibility is sewn, and are attached to the right and left shoulder harnesses 30 so as to make contact with the right and left shoulders S of the occupant P. The right and left harness covers 16 are connected to each other via a strap 41, as illustrated in FIG. 4.

[0038] Each of the harness covers 16 includes a body portion 42 formed in a long pouch shape, as illustrated in FIG. 5. The body portion 42 is formed such that the fabric material 46 cut out into in a substantially rectangular shape is folded along a fold line L, and one side portion 46A of the fabric material 46 and the other side portion 46B thereof via the fold line L are sewn up at sewing portions T1, T2 placed at respective end portions of the body portion 42 in its longitudinal direction.

[0039] Paired insertion holes 48 are formed in the respective end portions of the body portion 42 in the longitudinal direction. The paired insertion holes 48 are formed on the one side portion 46A of the fabric material 46, and are each formed in a long hole that is elongated along a width direction of the body portion 42. A part (hereinafter referred to as a restraint portion 30B) of the intermediate part of the shoulder harness 30 in the longitudinal direction which part is placed between the slot 34 and the tang plate 40 is passed through the insertion holes 48. Hereby, the body portion 42 is attached to the

shoulder harness 30 slidably in its longitudinal direction. In this attachment state, the longitudinal direction of the body portion 42 coincides with the longitudinal direction of the shoulder harness 30, and the width direction of the body portion 42 coincides with a width direction of the shoulder harness 30.

- 5 [0040] One end portion (an end portion opposite to the fold line L) of the body portion 42 in the width direction is not sewn, and an opening 50 that is opened toward one side of the shoulder harness 30 in the width direction is formed. The opening 50 is formed in an elongated shape with the longitudinal direction of the body portion 42 being taken as a longer side. On respective sides of the opening 50 in its longitudinal direction, the one side portion 46A of the fabric material 46 and the other side portion 46B thereof are sewn up at sewing portions T3, T4 (see FIG. 5) for inhibiting shoulder-pad falling. Hereby, a linear dimension of the opening 50 is shorter than a linear dimension of the body portion 42. Note that the sewing portions T3, T4 may be omitted such that the sewing portions T1, T2 are extended to areas where the sewing portions T3, T4 are provided.

- 5 [0041] A door portion 52 is extended from an edge portion of the opening 50 in the body portion 42. The door portion 52 is constituted by the other side portion 46B of the fabric material 46. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the door portion 52 is folded toward the body portion 42 so as to cover the opening 50 and the paired insertion holes 48, and is latched to the body portion 42 by means of paired snap buttons 54 serving as a door latch portion. Each of the snap buttons 54 is constituted by a projection member 56 fixed to the body portion 42, and a recessed member 58 fixed to the door portion 52. When the projection member 56 separably engages with the recessed member 58, the door portion 52 is latched to the body portion 42. Note that the door latch portion is not limited to the above, and is modifiable appropriately. For example, a hook-and-loop fastener and the like can be used as the door latch portion.

 [0042] Further, as illustrated in FIG. 3, a nonslip portion 60 formed in a sheet shape is attached to that surface of the body portion 42 which faces the shoulder S of the occupant P (that surface of the other side portion 46B of the fabric material 46 which is opposite to a side facing the one side portion 46A). The nonslip portion 60 is formed, for

example, of synthetic leather, and is fixed to the body portion 42 by sewing or the like. A coefficient of friction on that surface of the nonslip portion 60 which makes contact with the shoulder S of the occupant P is set to be higher than a coefficient of surface friction of the body portion 42.

5 [0043] Further, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the body portion 42 includes a cutout portion 62 formed in the edge portion of the opening 50 (a portion constituted by the one side portion 46A) toward a side opposite to a side where the door portion 52 is extended. The cutout portion 62 is formed in a central part of the body portion 42 in its longitudinal direction, and is cut out in a substantially rectangular shape toward the fold line L.

0 [0044] Further, as illustrated in FIG. 4, the right and left harness covers 16 are formed symmetrically. The harness covers 16 are passed through the right and left slots 34 from the back-face side of the seat back 22, and are drawn out to the front-face side of the seat back 22. Hereby, an intermediate part of the strap 41 in its longitudinal direction is hooked on the back-face side of the seat back 22, as illustrated in FIG. 2, and the right
5 and left harness covers 16 are connected to the seat back 22. The respective shoulder pads 18 are accommodated inside the right and left harness covers 16.

(Configuration of Shoulder Pad 18)

 [0045] As illustrated in FIGS. 6 and 7, the shoulder pad 18 is provided as a different member from the harness cover 16. The shoulder pad 18 is constituted by a hold
0 member 64 formed of a material (elastomer rubber, herein) having a flexibility, and a plurality of (seven, herein) inserts 68 (hard members) formed of a material (resin such as polypropylene, herein) that is harder than the material of the hold member 64.

 [0046] As illustrated in FIGS. 7 and 8, the hold member 64 is constituted by a tabular portion 70 formed in an elongated plate shape, and a plurality of (seven, herein)
5 hold portions 72 formed on one surface of the tabular portion 70. The hold member 64 is formed in an elongated and substantially plate shape as a whole.

 [0047] The plurality of hold portions 72 is provided side by side at some intervals in a longitudinal direction of the tabular portion 70. Each of the hold portions 72 includes paired projecting portions 74 projecting from respective end portions of the tabular portion

70 in its width direction, and paired displacement inhibition portions 76 for connecting the paired projecting portions 74 in the width direction of the tabular portion 70. Each of the hold portions 72 is formed in a frame shape, when viewed from a thickness direction of the tabular portion 70.

- 5 [0048] Each of the projecting portions 74 is formed in an elongated shape along the longitudinal direction of the tabular portion 70, and is opened toward an inner side of the tabular portion 70 in the width direction. Further, a space between the paired the projection portions 74 is set to be wider than a width dimension of the shoulder harness 30. A projection height of the paired displacement inhibition portions 76 from the tabular portion 70 is set to be lower than that of the paired projecting portions 74, and the paired displacement inhibition portions 76 are provided over between respective end portions of the paired projecting portions 74 in their longitudinal direction.

- [0049] As illustrated in FIG. 8, a through hole 78 having a substantially rectangular shape is formed at that part of the tabular portion 70 which faces each of the projecting portions 74. When the hold member 64 is molded, protrusions provided in a die to form the projecting portions 74 are inserted into these through holes 78. This allows the hold member 64 to be molded without using a slide mold.

- [0050] In the meantime, the plurality of inserts 68 is constituted by paired connection inserts 68A (hard members for connection) that are held by paired hold portions 72 placed at respective end portions of the hold member 64 in the longitudinal direction, and a plurality of non-connection inserts 68B (non-connection hard members) respectively held by a plurality of hold portions 72 (five hold portions 72; herein) placed between the paired hold portions 72. The connection inserts 68A and the non-connection inserts 68B are formed in an elongated shape where the width direction of the tabular portion 70 is taken as a longer side, and have a linear dimension that is set to be sufficiently larger than a width dimension of the shoulder harness 18.

- [0051] The paired connection inserts 68A are each constituted by an inner guide portion 80 formed in an elongated and substantially prismatic shape where the width direction of the tabular portion 70 is taken as a longer side, paired side walls 82 extended

in a substantially rib shape from respective end portions of the inner guide portion 80 in its longitudinal direction, paired guide claws 84 (outer guide portions) projecting from the paired side walls 82 into a direction where the paired guide claws 84 come closer to each other, and paired engageable portions 86 (engaging portion) projecting from surfaces of the paired side walls 82 which surfaces are opposite to surfaces that face the inner guide portion 80. The inner guide portion 80 and the paired guide claws 84 constitute a connection portion for slidably connecting the shoulder pad 18 to the shoulder harness 30. The paired guide claws 84 (outer guide portions) are separated from each other in a width direction of the shoulder harness 30.

[0052] The paired engageable portions 86 (respective end portions in the longitudinal direction) in each of the connection inserts 68A are fitted to respective inner sides of the paired projecting portions 74 of the hold portion 72 that is placed at an end portion of the hold member 64 in its longitudinal direction. Further, each of the connection inserts 68A fits in between the paired displacement inhibition portions 76, so that displacement thereof in the longitudinal direction of the tabular portion 70 is regulated. Hereby, each of the connection inserts 68A is held by its corresponding end portion of the hold member 64 in the longitudinal direction.

[0053] The paired connection inserts 68A are formed to have the same shape. The paired guide claws 84 are placed so as to deviate from the inner guide portion 80 in the longitudinal direction of the tabular portion 70, while deviating therefrom in a direction where the paired guide claws 84 are separated from the tabular portion 70. Note that the paired connection inserts 68A are attached to the hold member 64 in different orientations. That is, each of the paired connection inserts 68A is attached to the hold member 64 such that its paired guide claws 84 are placed closer to a center of the tabular portion 70 in the longitudinal direction relative to its inner guide portion 80.

[0054] Further, as illustrated in FIG. 9, the inner guide portion 80 of each of the connection inserts 68A is provided with a guide surface 80A inclined or curved (inclined, herein) so that its projection height from the tabular portion 70 is decreased as the guide surface 80A goes toward a center of the hold member 64 in its longitudinal direction, and

the guide surface 80A faces the paired guide claws 84.

[0055] In the meantime, the non-connection insert 68B is constituted by a member main body 90 formed in an elongated plate shape, and a rib portion 92 provided on either side of the member main body 90. The non-connection insert 68B is configured such that both sides of the member main body 90 have the same configuration, and the non-connection insert 68B is formed in an elongated and substantially plate shape as a whole. Note that, in the present embodiment, three longitudinal ribs extending in a longitudinal direction of the member main body 90, and three lateral ribs extending in a width direction of the member main body 90 are connected in a lattice shape (a cross inside a square shape), thereby constituting the rib portion 92. However, a shape of the rib portion is not limited to this, and is modifiable appropriately.

[0056] Each of the plurality of non-connection inserts 68B is configured such that respective end portions thereof in its longitudinal direction are fitted to inner sides of the paired projecting portions 74 of its corresponding hold portion 72. Further, each of the plurality of non-connection inserts 68B fits in between the paired displacement inhibition portions 76 of the corresponding hold portion 72, so that displacement of the each of the plurality of non-connection inserts 68B in the longitudinal direction of the tabular portion 70 is regulated. Hereby, the plurality of non-connection inserts 68B is attached to a central side of the hold member 64 in its longitudinal direction between the paired connection inserts 68A.

(Further Description of the Present Embodiment)

[0057] The shoulder pad 18 having the above configuration is accommodated in the body portion 42 of the harness cover 16 and is covered with the harness cover 16. As illustrated in FIG. 3, the shoulder pad 18 in the harness cover 16 is placed so that the longitudinal direction of the hold member 64 (the longitudinal direction of the tabular portion 70) goes along a longitudinal direction of the restraint portion 30B of the shoulder harness 30, and the plurality of inserts 68 is placed at a shoulder-harness-30 side relative to the tabular portion 70. Accordingly, in a state where the occupant P puts on the seat belt 14, the tabular portion 70 of the hold member 64 is placed between the shoulder S of the

occupant P and the plurality of inserts 68. Note that FIG. 3 schematically illustrates the plurality of inserts 68.

[0058] As illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 9, the restraint portion 30B of the shoulder harness 30 is passed through between the paired guide claws 84 and the inner guide portion 80 in each of the paired connection inserts 68A. The paired guide claws 84 face (engage with) a surface of the shoulder harness 30 which surface is opposite to a side facing the occupant, and the inner guide portion 80 faces (engages with) a surface of the shoulder harness 30 which surface faces the occupant. Hereby, the shoulder pad 18 is connected to the shoulder harness 30 slidably in its longitudinal direction, and displacement of the shoulder pad 18 in its width direction relative to the shoulder harness 30 is regulated. That part of the restraint portion 30B of the shoulder harness 30 which is placed between the paired connection inserts 68A makes contact with the non-connection inserts 68B. On that account, when the shoulder pad 18 slides over the shoulder harness 30 in the longitudinal direction, the rib portions 92 of the non-connection inserts 68B slide over and come in contact with the shoulder harness 30. Further, as described above, the displacement of the shoulder pad 18 in the width direction relative to the shoulder harness 30 is regulated. Thus, the rubber hold member 64 is configured so as not to make contact with the shoulder harness 30.

[0059] The shoulder pad 18 is formed slightly smaller in size than the body portion 42 of the harness cover 16. That is, the shoulder pad 18 is configured so as to be accommodated in the body portion 42 without play. Accordingly, the shoulder pad 18 slides integrally with the harness cover 16 relative to the shoulder harness 30 in the longitudinal direction.

[0060] The paired insertion holes 48 (window portion) of the harness cover 16 are each formed at a position that faces the paired guide claws 84 of each of the connection inserts 68A. The paired guide claws 84 are exposed outside the body portion 42 via their corresponding insertion hole 48. Further, in the present embodiment, the paired connection inserts 68A and the plurality of non-connection inserts 68B have a color different from that of the shoulder harness 30. For example, the paired connection inserts

68A and the plurality of non-connection insert 68B are molded from pink resin, while the shoulder harness 30 is formed of a black fiber.

[0061] Further, the opening 50 is formed in the body portion 42 of the harness cover 16 as previously described, so that the shoulder pad 18 is able to be put in and out via the opening 50. Note that the linear dimension of the opening 50 is set to be shorter than the linear dimension of the shoulder pad 18. When the shoulder pad 18 is put in and out from the body portion 42, the shoulder pad 18 is bent.

(Attachment of Harness Cover 16 and Shoulder Pad 18)

[0062] When the harness cover 16 and the shoulder pad 18 as described above are attached to the shoulder harness 30, the shoulder pad 18 is initially inserted in the body portion 42 via the opening 50 of the harness cover 16 as shown by an arrow E in FIG. 5. Subsequently, the latching portion 30A of the shoulder harness 30 (the other end portion thereof in the longitudinal direction) is inserted in the body portion 42 from one of the insertion holes 48 of the body portion 42 as shown by an arrow F in FIG. 10, and then drawn out from the other one of the insertion holes 48 to outside of the body portion 42. At this time, the shoulder harness 30 is passed through between the paired guide claws 84 and the inner guide portion 80 in each of the connection inserts 68A (see FIG. 11). Subsequently, the door portion 52 of the harness cover 16 is folded toward the body portion 42, and is latched to the body portion 42 by means of the paired snap buttons 54.

[0063] That latching portion 30A of the shoulder harness 30 which is drawn out to the outside of the body portion 42 is passed through the slot 34 of the seat back 22, and is latched to the hanger 36 on the back-face side of the seat back 22. Hereby, the attachment of the harness cover 16 and the shoulder pad 18 with respect to the shoulder harness 30 is completed.

[0064] Further, in the present embodiment, the harness cover 16 includes the opening 50 via which the shoulder pad 18 is put in and out. In view of this, as illustrated in FIG. 12, even in a state (hereinafter referred to as a cover attachment state) where the harness cover 16 is attached to the shoulder harness 30, it is possible to attach the shoulder pad 18 to and remove the shoulder pad 18 from the harness cover 16 and the shoulder

harness 30.

[0065] For example, in the cover attachment state, in order to remove the shoulder pad 18 from the harness cover 16 and the shoulder harness 30, the door portion 52 of the harness cover 16 is initially opened so as to expose the opening 50 and the paired insertion holes 48. Subsequently, the restraint portion 30B of the shoulder harness 30 is drawn out from between the paired guide claws 84, so as to uncouple the shoulder pad 18 from the shoulder harness 30. Then, while the shoulder pad 18 is being slightly bent, the shoulder pad 18 is taken out from the opening 50 to outside of the harness cover 16.

[0066] In the meantime, in order to attach the shoulder pad 18 into the harness cover 16 in the cover attachment state, the shoulder pad 18 is inserted into the harness cover 16 via the opening 50 while the shoulder pad 18 is being slightly bent. Then, the restraint portion 30B of the shoulder harness 30 is inserted into between the paired guide claws 84, so as to hook, on the paired guide claws 84, both end portions of the restraint portion 30B in its width direction. Subsequently, the door portion 52 of the harness cover 16 is folded toward the body portion 42, and is latched to the body portion 42 by means of the paired snap buttons 54.

(Interactions and Effects)

[0067] The following describes interactions and effects of the present embodiment.

[0068] In the present embodiment, the paired insertion holes 48 are formed on respective end portions of the harness cover 16 in the longitudinal direction which harness cover 16 is formed in an elongated pouch shape. The shoulder harness 30 is passed through the paired insertion holes 48. Hereby, the harness cover 16 is attached to the shoulder harness 30 slidably in the longitudinal direction. The shoulder pad 18 formed in an elongated shape is accommodated inside the harness cover 16. The shoulder pad 18 is connected to the shoulder harness 30 slidably in the longitudinal direction at the paired connection portions (the inner guide portion 80 and the paired guide claws 84) provided at respective end portions of the shoulder pad 18 in the longitudinal direction.

[0069] Thus, the shoulder pad 18 is connected to the shoulder harness 30 at the

respective end portions of the shoulder pad 18 in the longitudinal direction, separately from the harness cover 16. Hereby, regardless of whether or not the shoulder pad 18 is integrated with the harness cover 16, it is possible to effectively restrain displacement of the shoulder pad 18 in the width direction with respect to the shoulder harness 30.

- 5 Further, both of the harness cover 16 and the shoulder pad 18 are slidable relative to the shoulder harness 30 in the longitudinal direction. This makes it possible to easily adjust positions of the harness cover 16 and the shoulder pad 18 relative to the shoulder S of the occupant P.

- [0070] Further, in the present embodiment, the tabular portion 70 of the hold member 64 is placed between the plurality of inserts 68 and the shoulder S of the occupant P. This makes it possible to inhibit the occupant P from feeling uncomfortable due to rough texture of the plurality of inserts 68. Besides, the hold member 64 is formed of a material having a flexibility. This allows those parts of the tabular portion 70 which are placed between the plurality of inserts 68 to function as hinges. This accordingly allows the tabular portion 70 to fit the shoulder S of the occupant P successfully. As a result, it is possible to improve comfortability to the occupant P.

- [0071] Further, at the time of a vehicle crash, it is possible to support a load from the shoulder S of the occupant P successfully by the plurality of inserts 68 placed between the shoulder harness 30 and the tabular portion 70. This makes it possible to achieve a successful occupant restraint performance. Further, the plurality of inserts 68 makes contact with the shoulder harness 30. This makes it possible to reduce a sliding resistance (frictional resistance) caused when the shoulder pad 18 slides over the shoulder harness 30. Further, by modifying the material and the shape of the plurality of inserts 68 appropriately, it is possible to easily set and change an energy absorption property.

- [0072] Further, in the present embodiment, the connection portion of the shoulder pad 18 includes the inner guide portion 80 and the paired guide claws 84 (an outer guide portion). The inner guide portion 80 faces an occupant-P-side surface of the shoulder harness 30, and the paired guide claws 84 face that surface of the shoulder harness 30 which is an opposite side to the occupant P. That is, the shoulder harness 30 is slidably

passed through between the inner guide portion 80 and the paired guide claws 84. This allows the shoulder pad 18 to be connected to the shoulder harness 30 successfully. Besides, the paired guide claws 84 are deviated (offset) toward a center of the tabular portion 70 in the longitudinal direction relative to the inner guide portion 80. This makes it possible to reduce a sliding resistance caused when the shoulder pad 18 slides over the shoulder harness 30.

[0073] That is, in a case of another example (a shoulder pad 18') illustrated in FIG. 13 in which paired guide claws 84 are not deviated (offset) toward a center of a tabular portion 70 in a longitudinal direction relative to an inner guide portion 80', a sliding resistance of a shoulder harness 30 between the paired guide claws 84 and the inner guide portion 80' increases. In contrast, the example of the present embodiment illustrated in FIG. 9 is able to avoid the above problem.

[0074] Further, in the present embodiment, the paired guide claws 84 (the outer guide portion) that face the surface of the shoulder harness 30 which surface is an opposite side to the occupant P are separated from each other in the width direction of the shoulder harness 30. Hereby, when the shoulder harness 30 is connected to the connection insert 68A, an intermediate part of the shoulder harness 30 in the longitudinal direction is able to be inserted between the paired guide claws 84. Accordingly, it is possible to easily perform a connection operation (attachment and removal operations of the shoulder pad 18).

[0075] Further, in the present embodiment, the inner guide portion 80 of the shoulder pad 18 is provided with a guide surface 80A inclined or curved so that its projection height from the tabular portion 70 is decreased as the guide surface 80A goes toward a center of the hold member 64 in the longitudinal direction, that is, a side where the paired guide claws 84 are deviated. When the guide surface 80A makes slide contact with the shoulder harness 30, it is possible to effectively reduce a sliding resistance of the shoulder pad 18 with respect to the shoulder harness 30.

[0076] Further, in the present embodiment, it is possible to observe a connection state of the shoulder harness 30 with respect to the connection insert 68A of the shoulder

pad 18 accommodated in the harness cover 16, via the insertion hole 48 (a window portion) of the harness cover 16. This makes it possible to easily check whether or not the shoulder pad 18 is connected to the shoulder harness 30 appropriately.

[0077] Besides, the connection insert 68A has a color different from that of the shoulder harness 30 to be connected to the connection insert 68A. Hereby, it is possible to easily observe the connection state of the shoulder harness 30 with respect to the connection insert 68A, via the insertion hole 48 of the harness cover 16.

[0078] Further, the insertion hole 48, in the harness cover 16, through which the shoulder harness 30 is passed is provided as the window portion via which the connection state of the shoulder harness 30 with respect to the connection insert 68A is observed. Thus, since the insertion hole 48 doubles as the window portion, it is possible to simplify the configuration of the harness cover 16.

(Supplementary Description of Embodiment)

[0079] In the above embodiment, the paired insertion holes 48 of the harness cover 16 are each configured as the window portion via which the connection state of the shoulder harness 30 with respect to the inner guide portion 80 and the paired guide claws 84 of the connection insert 68A is observed. The invention is not limited to this, and may be configured such that a window portion other than the paired insertion holes is provided in the harness cover. Further, such a window portion may be omitted.

[0080] Further, in the above embodiment, the connection insert 68A provided with the inner guide portion 80 and the paired guide claws 84 (the connection portion) is set to a color different from that of the shoulder harness 30. The invention is not limited to this, and may be configured such that the connection portion and the shoulder harness are set to the same color.

[0081] Further, in the above embodiment, the guide surface 80A is provided in the inner guide portion 80. The invention is not limited to this, and may be configured such that the inner guide portion does not include the guide surface.

[0082] Further, in the present embodiment, the paired guide claws 84 separated from each other in the width direction of the shoulder harness 30 are configured as the

outer guide portion. The invention is not limited to this, and may be configured such that the outer guide portion is not separated in the width direction of the shoulder harness.

[0083] Further, in the above embodiment, the paired guide claws 84 (the outer guide portion) are deviated toward the center of the tabular portion 70 in the longitudinal direction relative to the inner guide portion 80. The invention is not limited to this, and may be configured as illustrated in FIG. 13.

[0084] Further, the above embodiment describes a case where the connection portion of the shoulder pad 18 is constituted by the inner guide portion 80 and the paired guide claws 84. The invention is not limited to this. Any connection portion is usable provided that the connection portion slidably connects the shoulder pad to the shoulder harness 30, and its configuration is modifiable appropriately.

[0085] Further, in the above embodiment, the shoulder pad 18 is configured to include the rubber hold member 64, and the plurality of resin inserts 68 (hard members) attached to the hold member 64. The invention is not limited to this, and the configuration of the shoulder pad is modifiable appropriately. For example, the shoulder pad may be entirely formed of rubber.

[0086] In addition, the invention can be performed with various modifications without departing from a gist of the invention. Further, it is needless to say that a scope of the invention is not limited to the above embodiment.

CLAIMS:

1. A vehicle child safety seat (10) characterized by comprising:

a seat main body (12) on which an occupant sits;

a seat belt (14) for restraining the occupant to the seat main body, the seat belt including a shoulder harness (30) having a long belt shape and facing a shoulder of the occupant;

a harness cover (16) formed in an elongated pouch shape and slidably attached to the shoulder harness in a longitudinal direction such that the shoulder harness is passed through paired insertion holes (48) formed on respective end portions of the harness cover in the longitudinal direction; and

a shoulder pad (18) formed in an elongated shape, accommodated in the harness cover, placed between the shoulder of the occupant and the shoulder harness along the longitudinal direction of the shoulder harness, and including paired connection portions, which are provided on respective end portions of the shoulder pad in the longitudinal direction, and each of which has paired guide claws, which are separated from each other in a width direction of the shoulder, and which restrains displacement of the shoulder pad in a width direction with respect to a shoulder harness, and the paired connection portions being connected to the shoulder harness slidably in the longitudinal direction.

2. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 1, characterized in that the shoulder pad includes:

a hold member (64) formed of a material having a flexibility, and including a tabular portion formed in an elongated plate shape and a plurality of hold portions provided on a shoulder-harness-side surface of the tabular portion so as to be placed side by side at intervals therebetween in a longitudinal direction of the tabular portion; and

a plurality of hard members (68) each formed of a material that is harder than the hold member, the plurality of hard members being respectively held by the plurality of hold portions, and

the connection portions are provided respectively in paired hard members placed on respective end portions of the tabular portion in the longitudinal direction.

3. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 2, characterized in that each of the connection portions includes an inner guide portion facing an occupant-side surface of the shoulder harness, and an outer guide portion facing that surface of the shoulder harness which is an opposite side to the occupant; and the outer guide portion is deviated toward a center of the tabular portion in the longitudinal direction relative to the inner guide portion.

4. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 3, characterized in that the outer guide portion is constituted by paired guide claws separated from each other in a width direction of the shoulder harness.

5. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the inner guide portion is provided with a guide surface inclined or curved so that its projection height from the tabular portion is decreased as the guide surface goes toward a center of the hold member in the longitudinal direction.

6. The vehicle child safety seat according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the harness cover is provided with window portions via which connection states of the shoulder harness with respect to the connection portions are observed.

7. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 6, characterized in that the connection portions have a color different from that of the shoulder harness.

8. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the window portions are the insertion holes.

9. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 3, characterized in that the inner guide portion has paired side walls extended in a rib shape from respective end portions of the inner guide portion.

10. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 9, characterized in that each of the side walls includes an engaging portion to be fitted to its corresponding hold portion, the engaging portion being projecting from that surface of the each of the side walls which is an opposite side to the inner guide portion.

11. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 3, characterized in that a distance between the tabular portion and a contact face to the shoulder harness, of a hard member placed between the paired hard members respectively provided with the connection portions is larger than a distance between the tabular portion and a contact face of the outer guide portion to the shoulder harness.

12. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 4, characterized in that the harness cover is provided with window portions via which connection states of the shoulder harness with respect to the connection portions are observed, and each of the window portions is formed at a position faced its corresponding paired guide claws.

13. The vehicle child safety seat according to claim 12 characterized in that each of the window portions is formed at a position faced a position where its corresponding paired guide claws are separated from each other.