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Naranjo

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(54) **BUCKLE APPARATUS TO ADJUST STRAP LENGTH OF A BAG**

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(22) Filed: **Aug. 5, 2015**

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A44B 11/18 (2006.01)
A44B 11/02 (2006.01)
A45C 13/30 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A44B 11/18*** (2013.01); ***A44B 11/02*** (2013.01); ***A45C 13/30*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A44B 11/02; A44B 11/04; A44B 11/005; A44B 11/00; A41F 15/00; A41F 15/02; A41F 15/002; A45C 13/30
USPC 24/197
See application file for complete search history.

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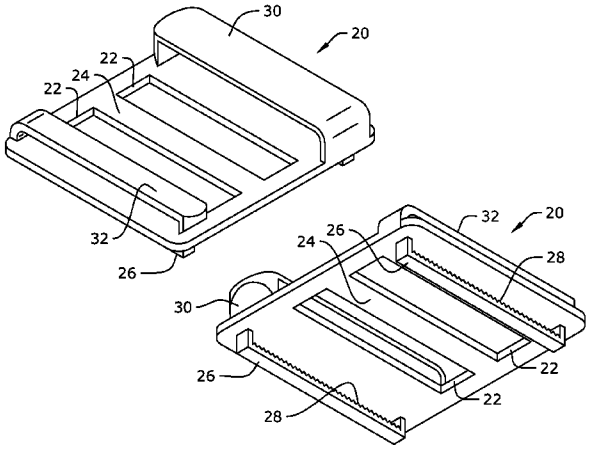
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A buckle apparatus for use in adjusting a length of a strap coupled to a bag includes a slider buckle having a pair of openings and a loop member coupled to the bottom face of the slider buckle to permit the strap to extend within the loop member and through the pair of openings in the slider buckle, and an anchor buckle having a pair of openings, a pair of loop members coupled to the bottom face of the anchor buckle and at least one clip coupled to the top face of the anchor buckle. The strap extends within the loop members and openings in the anchor buckle. A user can retract an adjusted loop portion above the openings in the slider buckle and secure the loop portion to the at least one clip of the anchor buckle, thereby shortening the strap length.

5 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



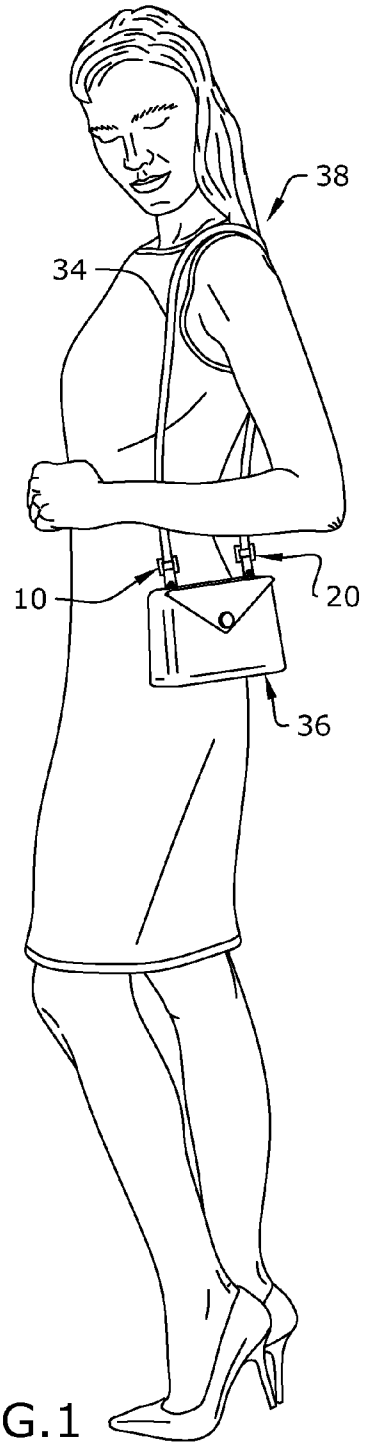


FIG.1

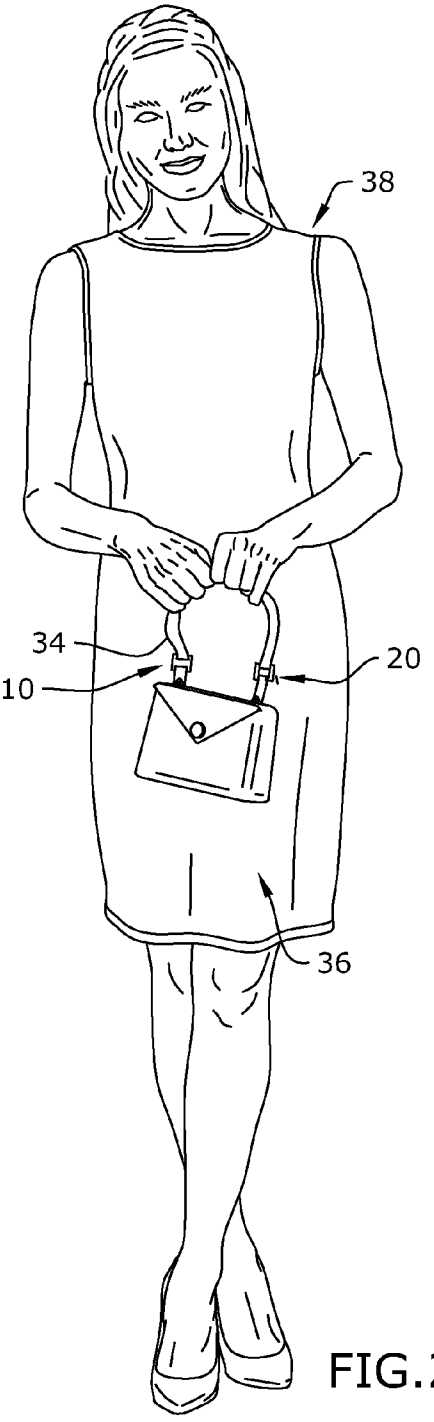


FIG.2

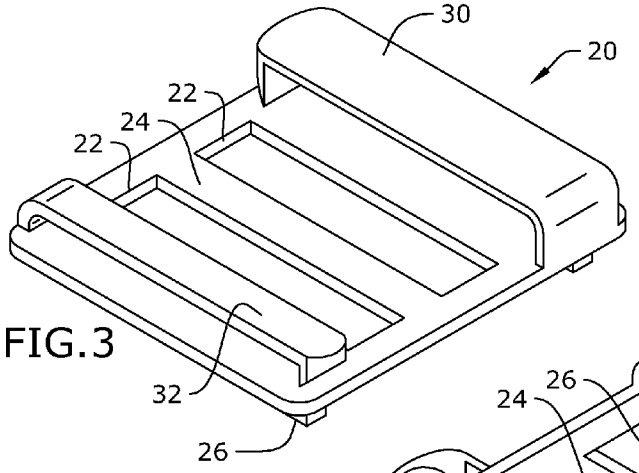


FIG.3

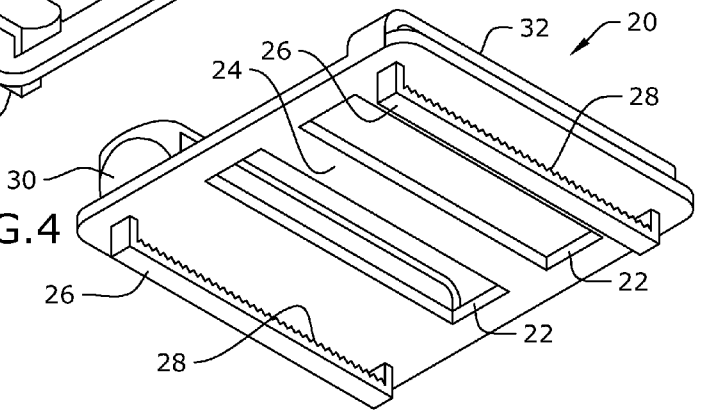


FIG.4

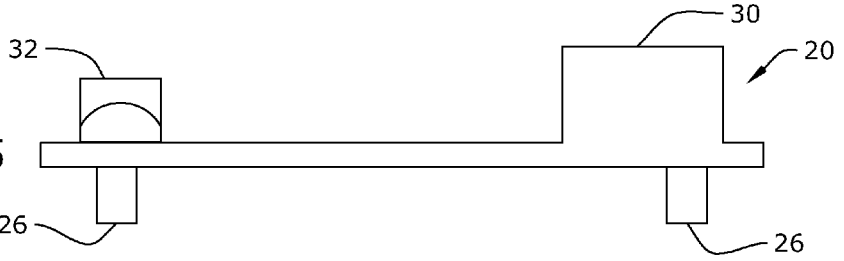


FIG.5

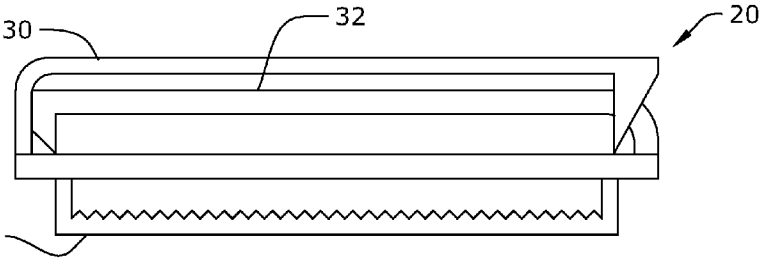


FIG.6

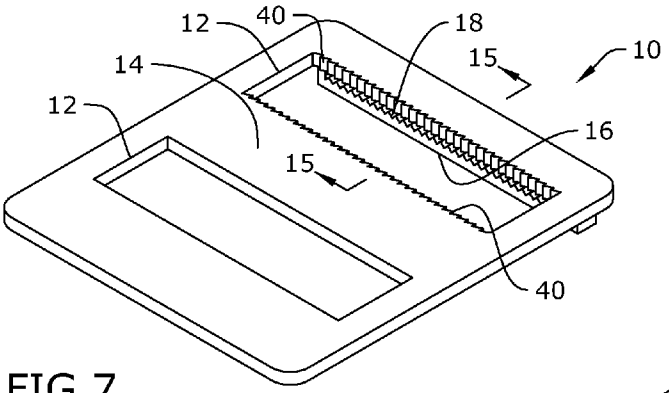


FIG.7

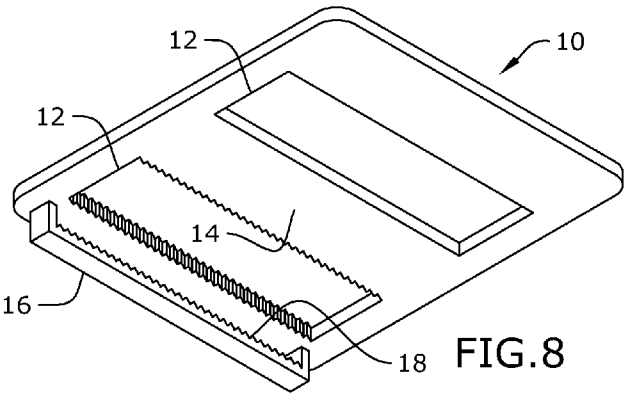


FIG.8

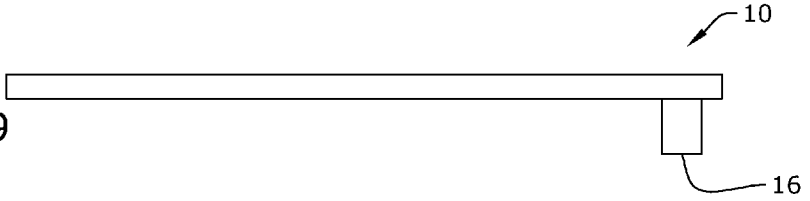


FIG.9

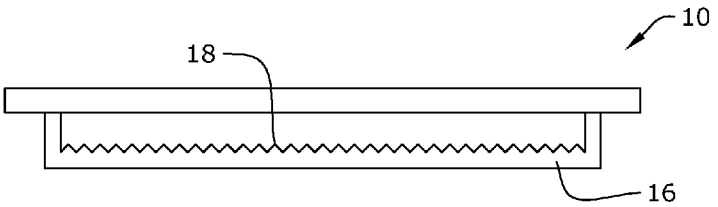


FIG.10

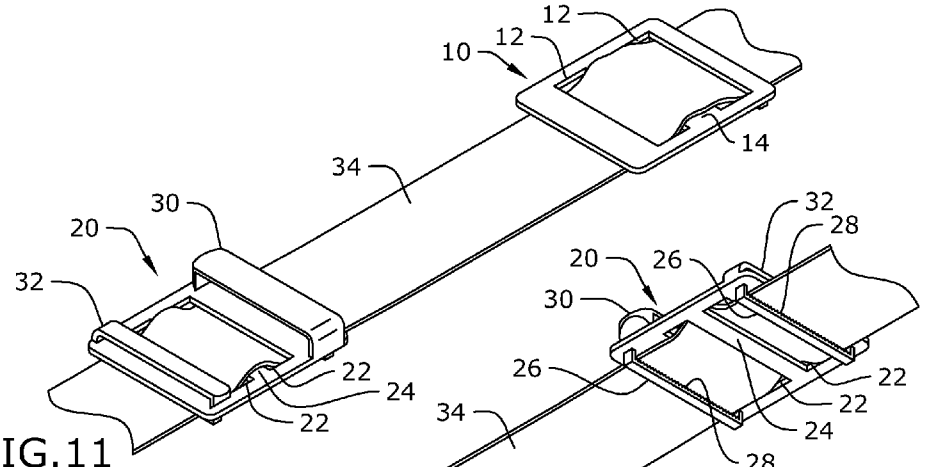


FIG.11

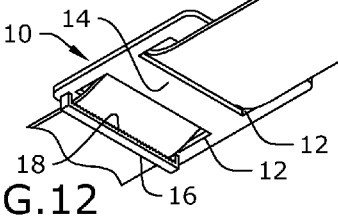


FIG.12

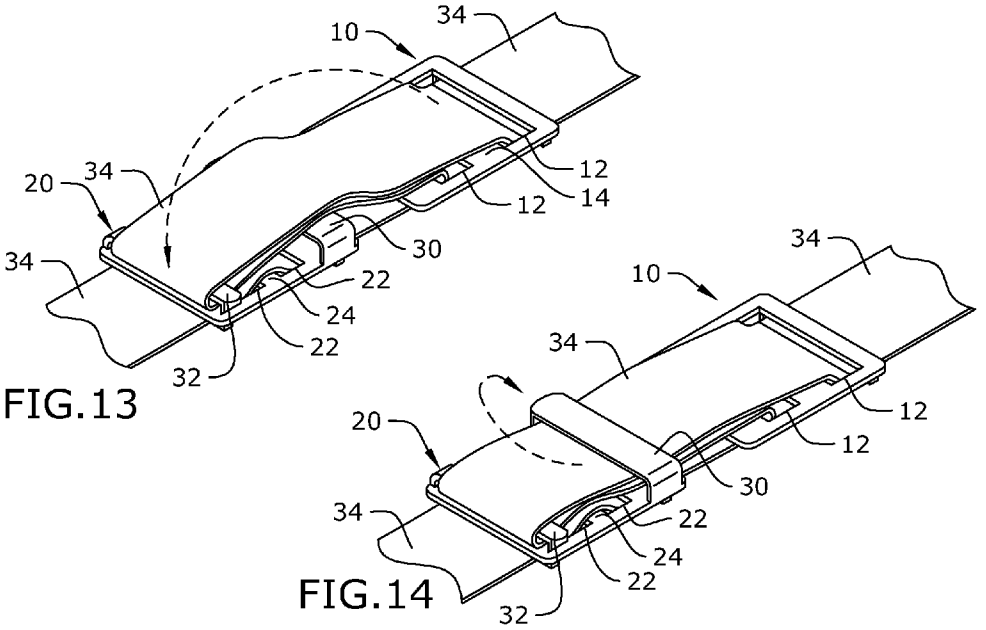


FIG.13

FIG.14

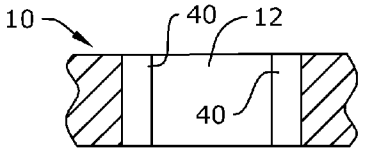


FIG.15

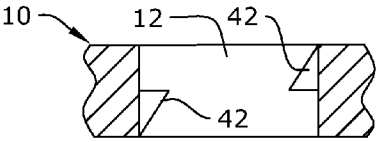


FIG.17

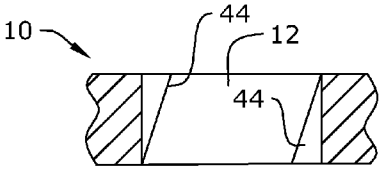


FIG.16

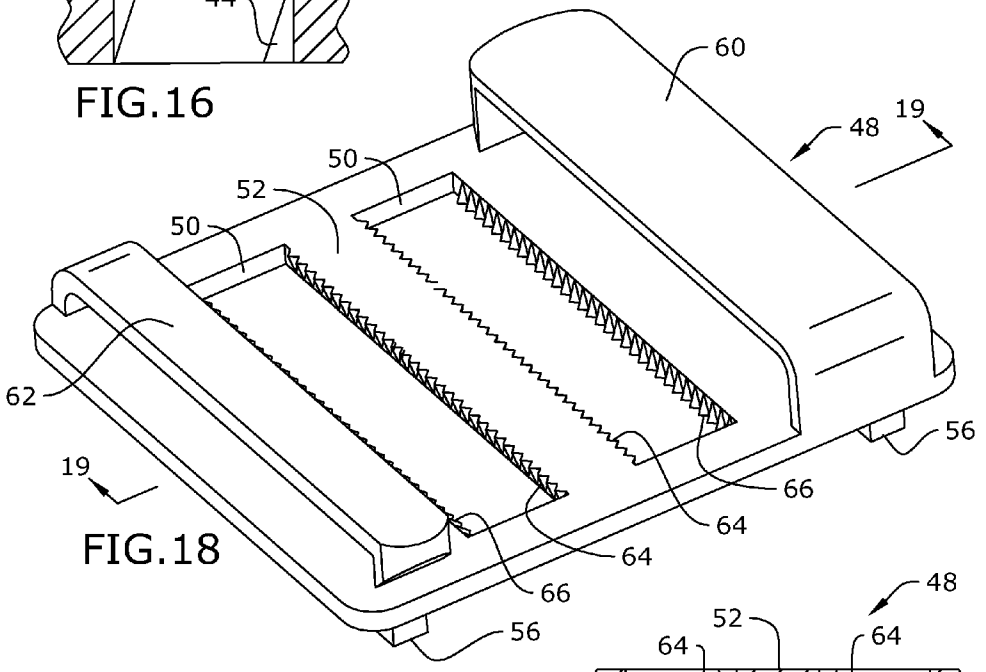


FIG.18

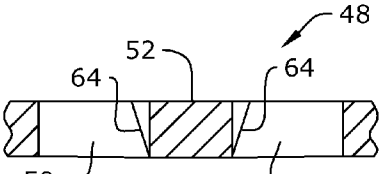


FIG.21

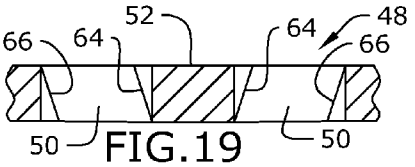


FIG.19

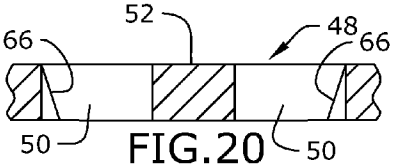


FIG.20

BUCKLE APPARATUS TO ADJUST STRAP LENGTH OF A BAG

RELATED APPLICATION

The application claims priority to provisional patent application U.S. Ser. No. 62/034,857 filed on Aug. 8, 2014, the entire contents of which is herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

The embodiments herein relate generally to adjustable buckles used to alter the length of a strap.

The majority of bags including purses, backpacks, carrying cases and duffel bags include at least one shoulder strap. This strap is often placed around a user's shoulder to help carry the bag and stored contents. Users of these bags have a need to lengthen or shorten the shoulder strap to fit around the body more comfortably or permit the strap to be effectively used as a hand strap.

There exist a variety of buckles coupled to bag straps that permit a user to shorten or lengthen the strap as desired. In these devices, one or more buckles are secured to the strap. However, these one or more buckles are limited when in use because they lack durability and/or sometimes unintentionally slip and fail to retain the strap in the desired length. In addition, these buckles do not effectively anchor a retracted loop portion of the strap during a length adjustment, which detracts from the aesthetics and/or safe use of the bag.

As such, there is a need in the industry for a buckle apparatus that addresses the limitations of the prior art.

SUMMARY

A buckle apparatus for use in adjusting a length of a strap coupled to a bag is provided. The buckle apparatus comprises an enhanced grip to secure an adjusted loop portion of the strap in place. The buckle apparatus comprises a slider buckle coupled to the strap and comprising a top face and a bottom face, the slider buckle comprising a pair of openings and a loop member coupled to the bottom face of the slider buckle, wherein the strap extends within the loop member and through the pair of openings in the slider buckle, and an anchor buckle coupled to the strap and comprising a top face and a bottom face, the anchor buckle comprising a pair of openings, a pair of loop members coupled to the bottom face of the anchor buckle and at least one clip coupled to the top face of the anchor buckle, wherein the strap extends within the pair of loop members and pair of openings in the anchor buckle, wherein a user can retract the adjusted loop portion above the pair of openings in the slider buckle and secure the adjusted loop portion to the at least one clip of the anchor buckle, thereby shortening the length of the strap.

In certain embodiments, a second clip is coupled to the top face of the anchor buckle, which permits the adjusted loop portion to be secured to the first and second clips of the anchor buckle. In certain embodiments, the loop members of the buckle apparatus may comprise teeth to enhance grip with the strap. In certain embodiments, the openings of the buckle apparatus may comprise one or more sets of teeth to enhance grip with the strap.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

The detailed description of some embodiments of the invention will be made below with reference to the accompanying figures, wherein the figures disclose one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. **1** depicts a perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus shown in use with the strap in a lengthened configuration;

FIG. **2** depicts a perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus shown in use with the strap in a shortened configuration;

FIG. **3** depicts a top perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating clips buckle **20**;

FIG. **4** depicts a bottom perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating clips buckle **20**;

FIG. **5** depicts a side view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating clips buckle **20**;

FIG. **6** depicts a side view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating clips buckle **20**;

FIG. **7** depicts a top perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating slider buckle **10**;

FIG. **8** depicts a bottom perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating slider buckle **10**;

FIG. **9** depicts a side view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating slider buckle **10**;

FIG. **10** depicts a side view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus illustrating slider buckle **10**;

FIG. **11** depicts a top perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus shown in use with the strap in a lengthened configuration;

FIG. **12** depicts a bottom perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus shown in use with the strap in a lengthened configuration;

FIG. **13** depicts a top perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus shown in use with the strap in a shortened configuration;

FIG. **14** depicts a top perspective view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus shown in use with the strap in a shortened and secured configuration;

FIG. **15** depicts a section view of certain embodiments of the buckle apparatus taken along line **15-15** in FIG. **7**;

FIG. **16** depicts a section view of an alternative embodiment of the buckle apparatus;

FIG. **17** depicts a section view of an alternative embodiment of the buckle apparatus;

FIG. **18** depicts a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the buckle apparatus;

FIG. **19** depicts a section view of an alternative embodiment of the buckle apparatus taken along line **19-19** in FIG. **18**;

FIG. **20** depicts a section view of an alternative embodiment of the buckle apparatus; and

FIG. **21** depicts a section view of an alternative embodiment of the buckle apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN EMBODIMENTS

As depicted in FIGS. **1-2**, the buckle apparatus is configured for use with strap **34** coupled to bag **36** carried by operator **38**. The buckle apparatus comprises slider buckle **10** and clips buckle **20**, which are used in conjunction with one another to permit operator **38** to adjust the length of strap **34** to either a lengthened or shortened configuration. Although the figures depict bag **36** as a purse, it shall be appreciated that any alternative type of bag known in the field may be used instead.

As depicted in FIGS. **3-6**, clips buckle **20** serves as an anchor buckle and comprises a pair of clips buckle body openings **22**, clips buckle center divider **24**, small clip **32**, large clip **30** and a pair of clips buckle lower loops **26**. Small clip **32** and large clip **30** are affixed to the top face of clips buckle **20**. Clips buckle lower loops **26** are affixed to the bottom face of clips buckle **20**. Each clips buckle lower loop **26** comprises clips buckle lower loop teeth **28**, which are directed toward the bottom face of clips buckle **20**.

As depicted in FIGS. **7-10**, slider buckle **10** comprises a pair of slider buckle body openings **12**, slider buckle center divider **14** and slider buckle lower loop **16**. Slider buckle lower loop **16** is affixed to the bottom face of slider buckle **10** and comprises slider buckle lower loop teeth **18**, which are directed toward the bottom face of slider buckle **10**. In one embodiment, the slider buckle body opening **12** proximate slider buckle lower loop **16** comprises slider buckle body opening teeth (Type A) **40**, which are disposed on opposing side edges of the body opening.

It shall be appreciated that clips buckle **20** and slider buckle **10** may be made from any materials known in the field including, but not limited to, any metal, wood, plastic, or the like. In addition, clips buckle **20** and slider buckle **10** may be any color and have any patterns or finishing glosses to match with bag **36** and/or each other. In certain embodiments, clips buckle **20** and slider buckle **10** may have one or more logos engraved thereto and finished with the same or different colors as the buckles.

In operation, clips buckle **20** and slider buckle **10** are coupled to strap **34** on opposing ends as shown in FIG. **1**. As depicted in FIGS. **11-12**, strap **34** may be configured in a lengthened configuration. In this configuration, strap **34** is inserted through the bottom side of slider buckle **10** through slider buckle lower loop **16**. Strap **34** then extends up through the first slider buckle body opening **12**, around slider buckle center divider **14**, and down through the second slider buckle body opening **12**. Strap **34** then extends to clips buckle **20** and is inserted through a first clips buckle lower loop **26**. Strap **34** then extends up through the first clips buckle body opening **22**, around clips buckle center divider **24**, down through the second slider buckle body opening **22**, and through the second clips buckle lower loop **26**. Slider buckle body opening teeth (Type A) **40**, slider buckle lower loop teeth **18** and clips buckle lower loop teeth **28** contact strap **34** and enhance the grip between the strap and buckles **10**, **20**.

As depicted in FIG. **13**, the length of strap **34** can be shortened by pulling a portion of strap **34** above slider buckle body openings **12** to create a refracted adjustment loop. As such, slider buckle body opening **12** positioned closest to clips buckle **20** permits the portion of strap **34** between the buckles **10**, **20** to slide through to create the retracted adjustment loop. The retracted adjustment loop is folded over and disposed around small clip **32** of clips buckle **20**. As depicted in FIG. **14**, the retracted adjustment loop can be further anchored into place by placing the refracted adjustment loop within large clip **30** of clips buckle **20**. In this secured configuration, strap **34** is tidy and in a shortened configuration. It shall be appreciated that a user can easily return strap **34** to the lengthened configuration by removing the retracted adjustment loop from small clip **32** and large clip **30**, and feeding the adjustment loop back through the slider buckle body opening **12** in the reverse direction.

The buckle apparatus may have several alternative embodiments. For example, the teeth on slider buckle **10** may have variable sizes and shapes. FIG. **15** depicts a cross-section view of slider buckle body opening teeth (Type A) **40**, which are oriented substantially parallel to opposing side edges of slider buckle body opening **12**. FIG. **16** depicts an alternative embodiment in which slider buckle body opening teeth (Type B) **44** are slanted relative to opposing side edges of slider buckle body opening **12**. FIG. **17** depicts an alternative embodiment in which slider buckle body opening teeth (Type C) **42** are slanted relative to opposing side edges of slider buckle body opening **12**, and disposed on a portion of each side edge.

As depicted in FIG. **18**, alternate clips buckle **48** may be used instead of clips buckle **20**. Alternate clips buckle **48** shares components substantially similar to clips buckle **20**, which comprises a pair of alternate clips buckle body openings **50**, alternate clips buckle center divider **52**, alternate small clip **62**, alternate large clip **60** and a pair of alternate clips buckle lower loops **56**. In certain embodiments, alternate clips buckle **48** comprises inner divider teeth **64** and clips buckle body opening outer teeth **66** disposed on opposing side edges of each clips buckle body opening **50**. FIG. **19** depicts a cross-section view of inner divider teeth **64** and clips buckle body opening outer teeth **66** on alternate clips buckle **48**. It shall be appreciated that any combination of teeth may be used instead. For example, alternate clips buckle **48** may only comprise clips buckle body opening outer teeth **66** as depicted in FIG. **20**. In certain embodiments, alternate clips buckle **48** may only comprise inner divider teeth **64** as depicted in FIG. **21**.

It shall be appreciated that the components of the buckle apparatus described in several embodiments herein may comprise any alternative known materials in the field and be of any color, size and/or dimensions. It shall be appreciated that the components of the buckle apparatus described herein may be manufactured and assembled using any known techniques in the field.

Persons of ordinary skill in the art may appreciate that numerous design configurations may be possible to enjoy the functional benefits of the inventive systems. Thus, given the wide variety of configurations and arrangements of embodiments of the present invention the scope of the invention is reflected by the breadth of the claims below rather than narrowed by the embodiments described above.

What is claimed is:

1. A buckle apparatus for use in adjusting a length of a strap coupled to a bag, the buckle apparatus configured to secure an adjusted loop portion of the strap in place, the buckle apparatus comprising:

a slider buckle coupled to the strap and comprising a top face and a bottom face, the slider buckle comprising a pair of openings and a loop member coupled to the bottom face of the slider buckle, wherein the strap extends within the loop member and through the pair of openings in the slider buckle; and

an anchor buckle coupled to the strap and comprising a top face and a bottom face, the anchor buckle comprising a pair of openings, a pair of loop members coupled to the bottom face of the anchor buckle and a pair of clips coupled to the top face of the anchor buckle, wherein the strap extends within the pair of loop members and the pair of openings in the anchor buckle, wherein the adjusted loop portion is configured to retract above the pair of openings in the slider buckle and adjust to secure the adjusted loop portion to the pair of clips of the anchor buckle, thereby shortening the length of the strap.

2. The buckle apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the loop member of the loop member of the slider buckle and the pair

of loop members of the anchor buckle comprise teeth configured to contact the strap.

3. The buckle apparatus of claim **2**, wherein the pair of clips are positioned on opposite sides of the pair of openings of the anchor buckle.

4. The buckle apparatus of claim **3**, wherein one opening of the pair of openings in the slider buckle comprises teeth disposed on opposing side edges of the one opening.

5. The buckle apparatus of claim **4**, wherein opposing side edges of each opening in the pair of anchor buckle openings comprise teeth.

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