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(54) **CHILD'S PORTABLE ACTIVITY PACK**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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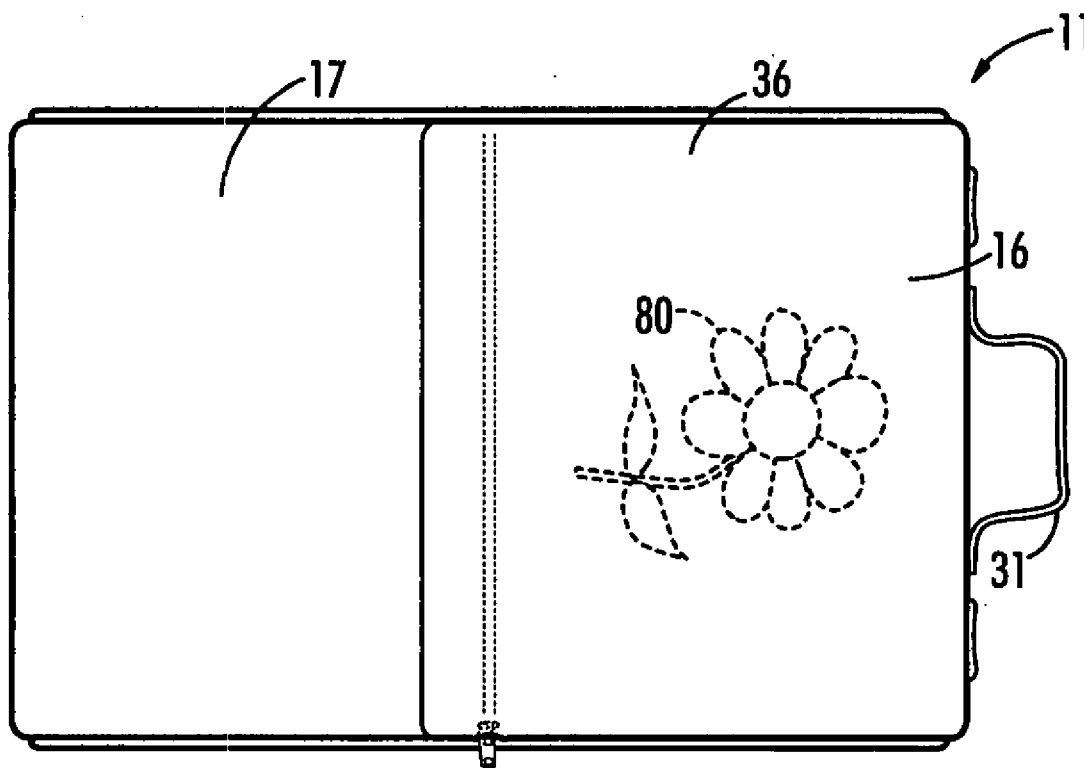
A child's portable activity pack having folding pouches for amusement or educational items. The pack can be unfolded and its rear pouch placed on a folded down airplane passenger service tray. The back straps can be tightened beneath the tray to securely hold the pack on the tray and a front pouch with an erase board unfolds upwardly and hooks on the service tray catch provided to hold the service tray in its fold-up position. Friction hinges are also provided to releasably hold the front pouch in an upright position when not aboard an aircraft. The portable activity pack has side pouches, which hang down at the sides of the service tray, or other support, for storing the amusement and educational items. The back pouch includes a clear plastic game board and a compartment beneath the game board for game boards and flat items.

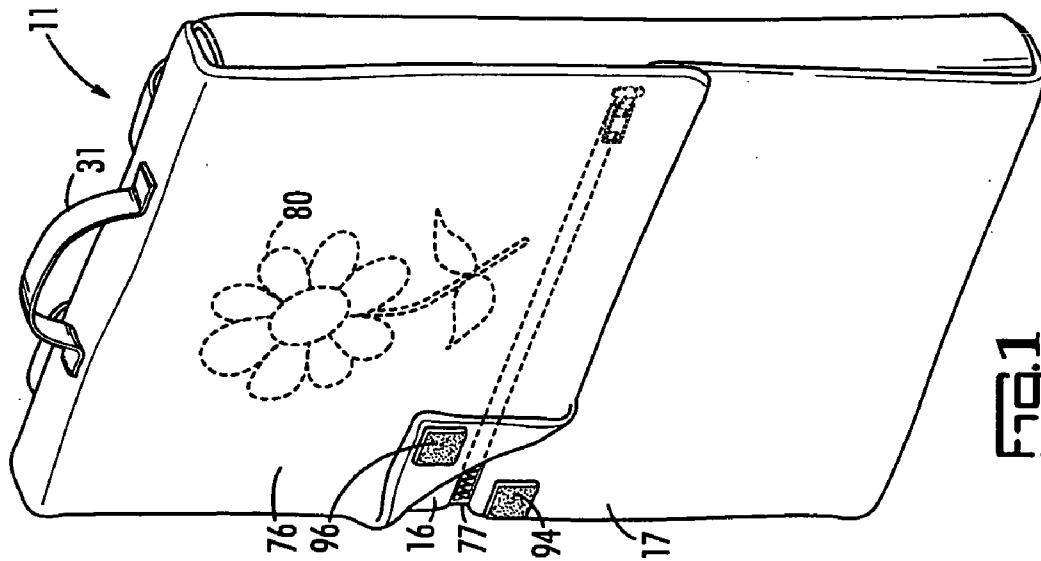
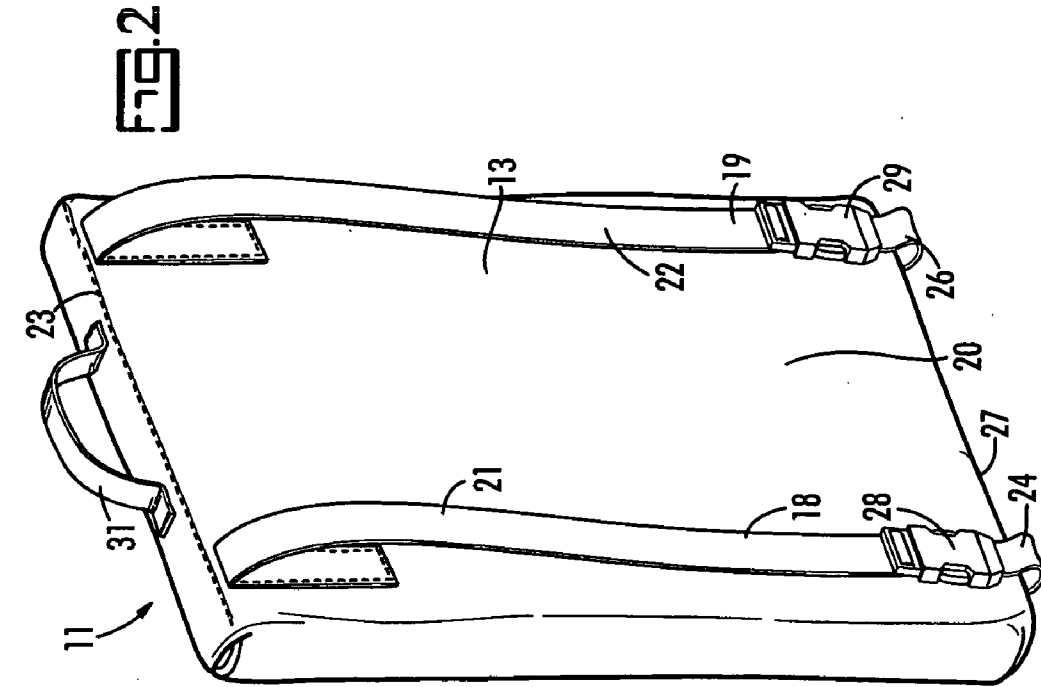
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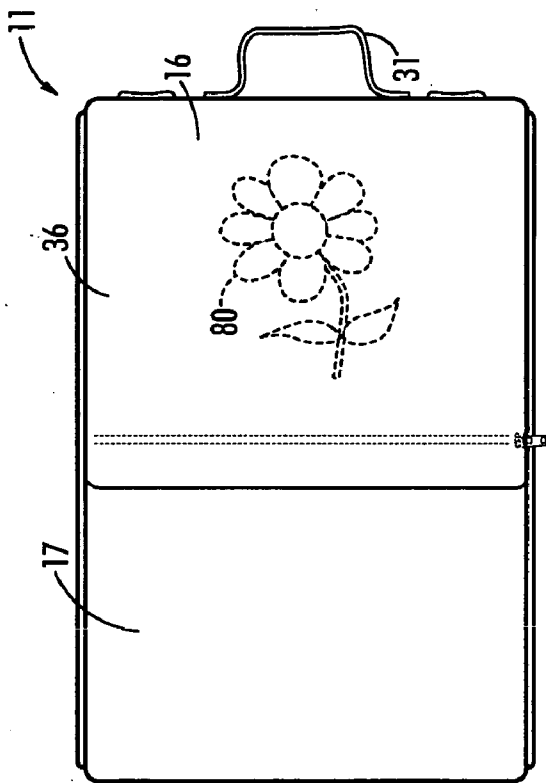


FIG. 3A

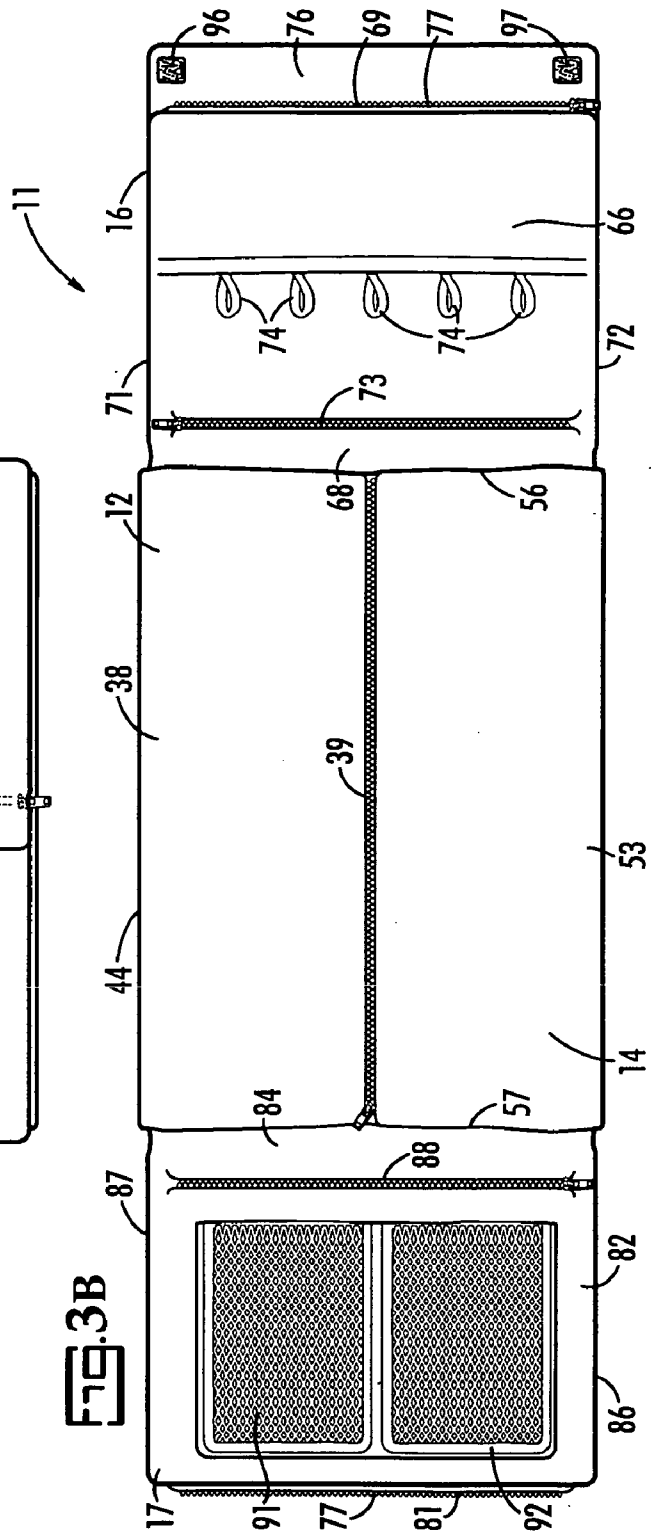
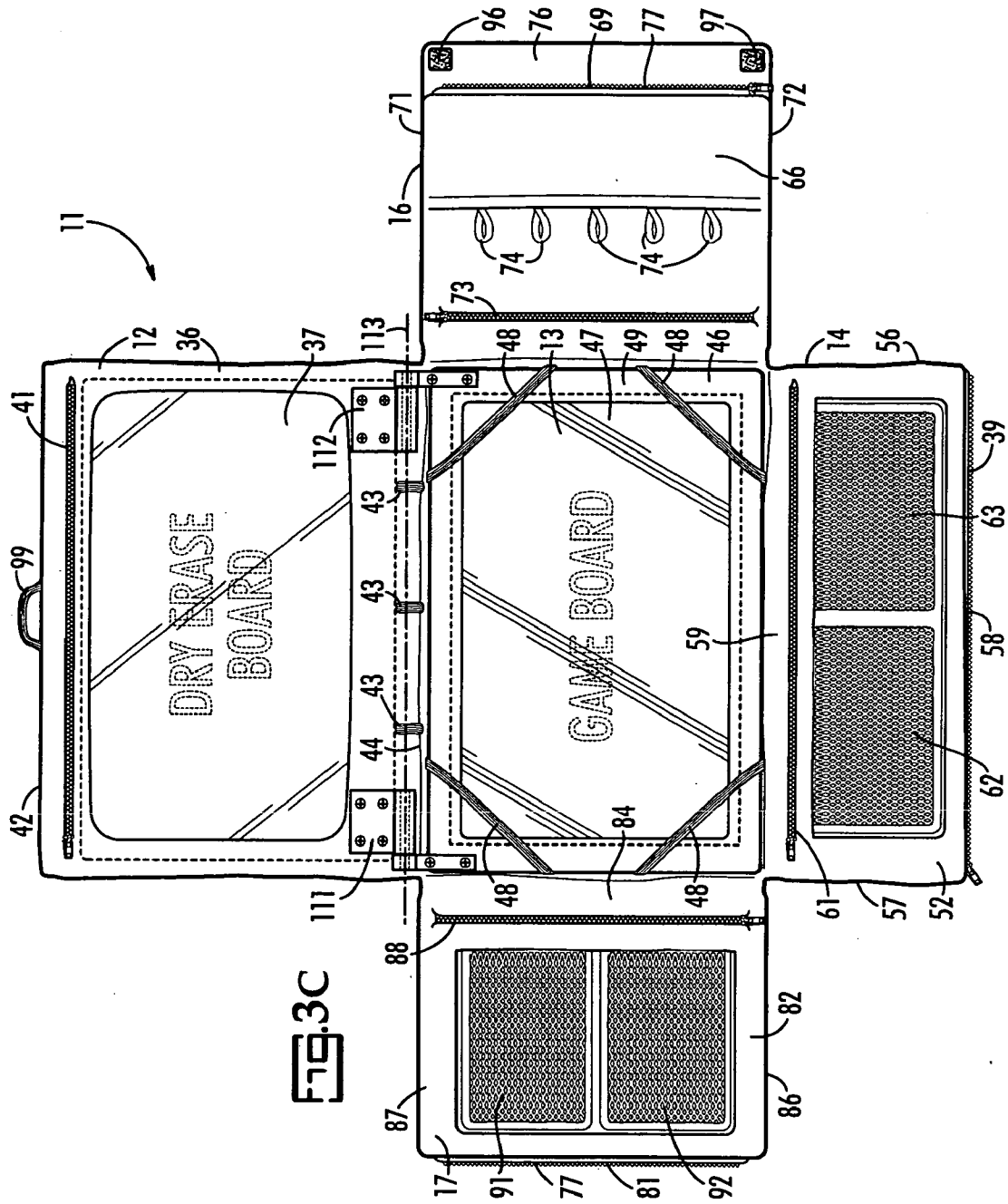


FIG. 3B



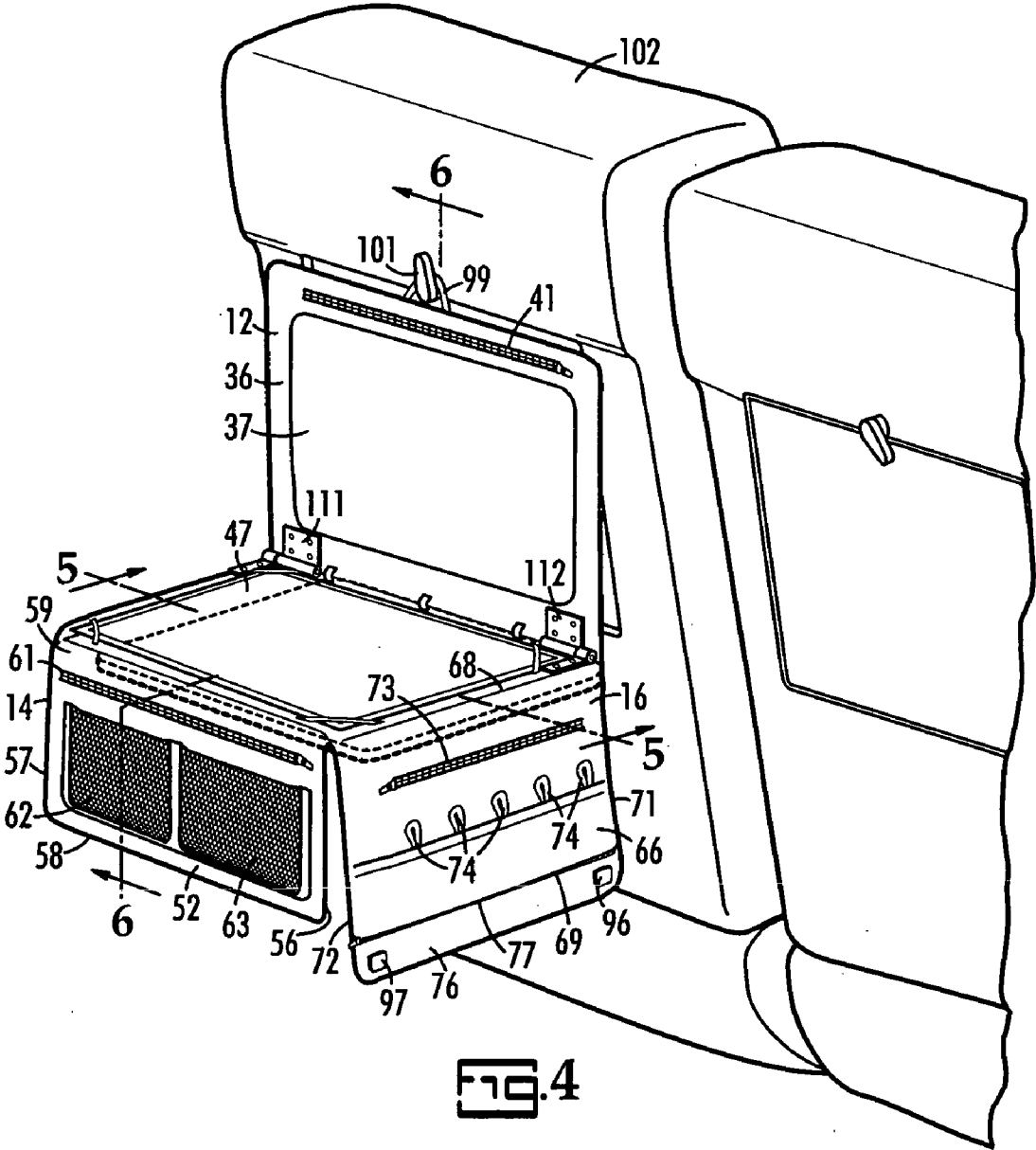
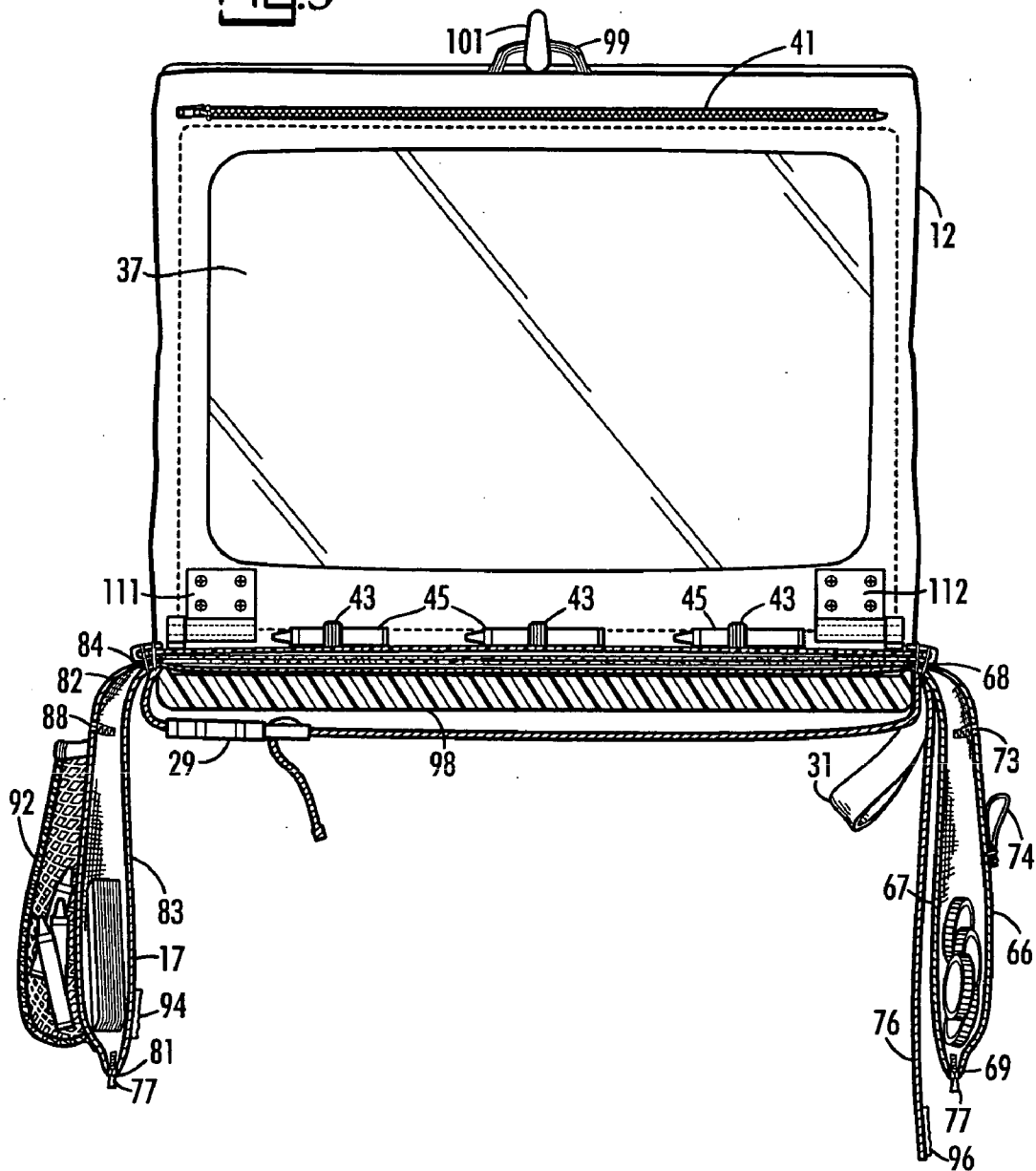
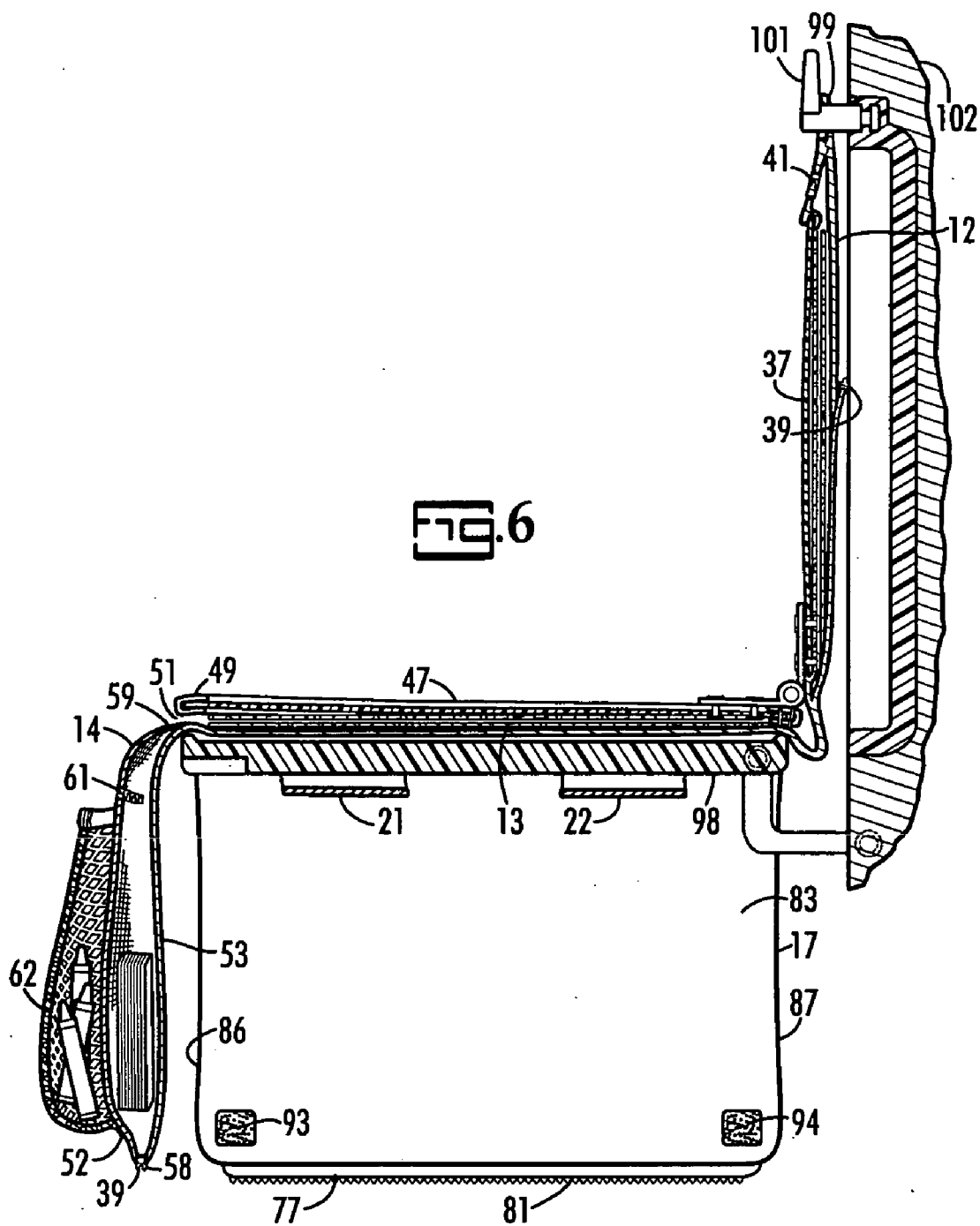


FIG. 4

FIG. 5





**CHILD'S PORTABLE ACTIVITY PACK**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] Occupying the attention of children traveling in conveyances, such as airplanes or automobiles, is a challenge for parents. When confined to a seat on an airplane or automobile a child typically becomes restless and irritable due to inactivity. Although a parent may bring a few toys or play items aboard an airplane in carry-on luggage, the child typically loses interest in a relatively short period of time and looks for other avenues of entertainment.

[0002] Thus there is a need for a child's portable activity pack that can be hand-carried onto commercial airplanes or taken on automobile trips and which contains a variety of amusement or educational items capable of maintaining the child's interest for extended periods of time. In addition to maintaining such activity items in an organized manner, the portable activity pack should include a wide variety of activity items, such as toys, books, a flat transparent surface for game boards, or tracing or writing and a dry erase board for drawing.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0003] A portable activity pack in the form of a back pack is provided having back straps and a handle for hand carry and which has fold-up panels containing toys, games, writing or drawing paper and related children activity items. Aboard an aircraft the portable activity pack is unfolded and a rear pouch is placed on a fold-down tray attached to the back of the seat in front of the seat being occupied by the child. The back straps are crossed beneath the tray and rebuckled. A front pouch attached to one lateral side of the rear pouch, which is the same size as the rear pouch, has a loop on its free lateral edge, which hooks over the latch for the fold-down tray, thereby holding the front pouch and its dry erase board in an upright position. A lateral side pouch folds down from the other lateral side of the rear pouch at the front of the tray and top and bottom side pouches fold-down at the sides of the tray. The rear pouch has a transparent plastic window beneath which game boards and sheets of paper may be stored. The front pouch may include a dry erase board and includes a zipper for a pocket behind the board for storing paperback books, game boards or other flat items. Loops are provided below the dry erase board for holding dry erase pens. The side pouches also include zipper enclosed compartments for storing game cards, crayons, toys and the like. Mesh pockets are also provided on the side pouches for storing toys and game pieces and one of the side pouches preferably has loops for storing finger puppets. When it is desired to refold the portable activity pack, the front pouch unhooks from the tray latch and is folded over the rear of the rear pouch, the lateral side pouch is folded over the front pouch and a separating zipper therebetween is closed. Next, the top and bottom side pouches are folded over the interconnected front and lateral side pouches and a separating zipper therebetween is closed. A flap is provided to hide this last mentioned zipper. The flap is held in its zipper covering position by Velcro patches. The shoulder straps are then unbuckled and the portable activity pack is removed from the fold-down service tray. Friction hinges interconnect lateral edges of the front and rear pouches, which serve to frictionally hold the front pouch in an adjusted activity position when it is manually moved to such

position. The friction hinges facilitate use of the portable activity pack when the activity site does not include a hook on which the loop can be hooked to hold the front pouch in an upright position.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

[0004] The portable activity pack is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0005] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view showing the front of the portable activity pack;

[0006] **FIG. 2** is a perspective view showing the rear of the portable activity pack;

[0007] **FIG. 3A** is a front view of the portable activity pack in a folded condition;

[0008] **FIG. 3B** shows the top and bottom side pouches unzipped and unfolded;

[0009] **FIG. 3C** shows the portable activity pack completely unzipped and unfolded;

[0010] **FIG. 4** is a perspective view of the unfolded pack placed on a fold-down tray of an aircraft;

[0011] **FIG. 5** is a section taken on the line 5-5 in **FIG. 4**, and

[0012] **FIG. 6** is a section taken on the line 6-6 in **FIG. 4**.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

[0013] **FIGS. 1, 2** and **3A** shows the portable activity pack **11** in its folded condition. **FIG. 3B** shows the portable activity pack **11** partially unfolded and **FIG. 3C** shows the pack **11** completely unfolded. The portable activity pack **11** includes a quadrilateral front pouch **12**, a quadrilateral rear pouch **13**, a lateral side pouch **14**, a top side pouch **16** and a bottom side pouch **17**. A pair of shoulder straps **18, 19** have corresponding portions **21, 22** secured to a back panel **20** of the rear pouch **13** near its top edge **23** and corresponding portions **24, 26** of the straps **18, 19** are secured to the rear pouch **13** near its bottom edge **27**. An adjustable quick release buckle **28** releasably connects strap portions **18** and **24** and an adjustable quick release buckle **29** releasably connects strap portions **19** and **26**. A handle **31** is secured to the top of the portable activity pack **11** near the top edge **23** of the back pouch **13** to facilitate hand carry of the portable activity pack **11**.

[0014] The front pouch **12** has a front or inner wall or panel **36** to which a rigid dry erase board **37** is secured and a rear or outer wall or panel **38**, which in **FIG. 3B** is shown connected to the lateral side pouch **14** by a separating zipper **39**. A non-separating zipper **41** in the front panel **36** of the front pouch **12**, disposed between the dry erase board **37** and the lateral edge **42** of the front panel **36**, provides access to a pocket between the panels **36, 38** where thin books, game boards or the like may be stored. A plurality of spaced apart loops **43** for the dry erase pens are secured to the front panel **36** of the front pouch **12** between the dry erase board **37** and a lateral edge **44** of the front pouch **12** secured to a lateral edge of the rear pouch **13**. **FIG. 5** shows dry erase pens installed in the loops **43**.



[0015] Referring to FIGS. 3C, 4, 5 and 6, the rear pouch 13 has a front panel 46 which includes a transparent plastic window or game board 47 mounted in a rigid frame 49. Elastic bands or straps 48 are attached at their opposite ends to the front panel 46 to extend across the four corners of the rectangular transparent game board 47. The bands 48 serve to hold flat game boards, tracing paper or writing paper in place on the transparent game board. The front panel 46 and the back panel 20 of the rear pouch 13 are secured to one another at their top edges, bottom edges and the lateral edge adjacent lateral edge 44 of the front pouch 12. The top and bottom edges of the panels 46, 20 correspond in position with the top edge 23 and bottom edge 27 of the rear pouch, shown in FIG. 2. The lateral side of the top panel 46 of the rear pouch 13 is not secured to the back panel 20 of the rear pouch 13 thereby providing an elongated opening 51, shown in FIG. 6, providing access to a storage area for flat board games, paper and other flat items. A pair of friction hinges 111, 112 interconnect the front pouch 12 to the rear pouch 13 permitting relative pivotal movement about an axis 113 adjacent the lateral edge 44 of the front pouch 12. The friction hinges 111, 112 serve to releasably hold the front pouch 12 in the pivot position to which it is manually adjusted. The friction hinges function in a manner similar to their function in lap top computers.

[0016] The lateral side pouch 14 includes a front panel 52 and a rear panel 53 which are interconnected at their top edges, their bottom edges and their lateral side edges which correspond to a top edge 56, a bottom edge 57, and lateral edges 58, 59 of the lateral side pouch 14. A non-separating zipper 61 is installed in the front panel 52 adjacent and parallel to the lateral edge 59, which provides access to the interior of the pouch 14, which is suitable for storing small toys and game pieces. Mesh material is sewn or otherwise fastened to the front panel 52 to form a pair of mesh pockets 62, 63 which open toward the zipper 61. The pockets 62, 63 are ideal for storing quickly accessible game pieces or toys.

[0017] As shown in FIGS. 3C, 4 and 5, the top side pouch 16 has a front panel 66 and a back panel 67 interconnected at their top, bottom and laterally opposite sides to form a top edge 68, a bottom edge 69, a lateral edge 71 and a lateral edge 72. A non-separating zipper 73 is installed in the front or rear panel 66 near to and parallel with the top edge 68 for providing access to the pocket formed by the panels 66, 67. Five loops 74 are secured to the front panel 66 for storage of finger puppets, not shown. A flap 76 having the same lateral width as the top side pouch 16 is secured to the top side panel 67 at the top edge 68 and extends beyond the bottom edge 69 of the pouch 16 so that when the portable activity pack 11 is in its folded condition, as shown in FIG. 1, the free end of the flap 76 covers a separating zipper 77 interconnecting the bottom edge 69 of the top side pouch 16 with a bottom edge 81 of the bottom side pouch 17. The flap 76 may also carry a distinctive symbol or decoration, such as the embroidered flower 80 shown in FIGS. 1 and 3A.

[0018] The bottom side pouch 17 includes a front panel 82 and a back or rear panel 83 interconnected at their top, bottom and laterally opposite sides to form a top edge 84, the bottom edge 81, a lateral edge 86 and a lateral edge 87. A non-separating zipper 88 is installed in the front panel 82 near and parallel with the top edge 84 to provide access to the pocket formed between the panels 82, 83. Mesh material is sewn or otherwise fastened to the front panel 82 to form

side by side mesh pockets 91, 92. Velcro patches 93, 94 are sewn on the lower corners of the front panel 83 of the lower side pouch 17 which mate with Velcro patches 96, 97 sewn on the inside of the flap 76 in the fold-up condition of the activity pack as shown in FIG. 1.

[0019] The portable activity pack 11 is designed to maintain toys, games, writing accessories and the like in a secure organized manner during transport and when unfolded aboard an airplane, in an automobile, on a train or at a home, it provides an activity center for keeping a child occupied for a long period of time. The portable activity pack 11 can be carried by the handle 31 or, by using the back straps 21, 22, it can be transported as a backpack. When the portable activity pack 11 is unfolded and placed on a service tray 98 in its fold-down service position shown in FIGS. 4, 5 and 6, an flexible elastic loop or fastening 99 on edge 42 of the front pouch 12 is hooked on the retention hook or latch 101 used to maintain the fold-down service tray 98 in its fold-up or stored position in the cavity in the rear of the passenger seat 102 in front of the seat, not shown, occupied by the child using the portable activity pack 11. The rear pouch 13 rests on the service tray 98 and the straps 21, 22 are preferably crossed and tightened beneath the service tray 98. The portable activity pack 11 is thus securely held in place. The portable activity pack 11 and its contents are not disturbed by air turbulence during a flight. All the pouches 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 are accessible to the child. The storage area behind the dry erase board 37 is suitable for storing flat items and reading material such as thin books. The storage area beneath the plastic window 47 is particularly suited for storing flat pictorials for tracing, game boards, and sheets of paper for writing or tracing. The elastic corner bands 48 hold a game board or Lego mat in place and also hold paper in place when the child is engaged in writing or tracing activity.

[0020] The friction hinges 111, 112 increase the versatility of the portable activity pack 11 by maintaining the front pouch 12 and its dry erase board 37 in an upright posture to which it may be pivoted without reliance on an external support such as found aboard a passenger aircraft. The friction hinges 111, 112 facilitate the usefulness of the portable activity pack 11 when used at home, when it accompanies a child to a baby sitters home, in an automobile or train or to a day care center.

REFERENCE NUMBER GLOSSARY

- [0021] 11 portable activity pack
- [0022] 12 quadrilateral front pouch
- [0023] 13 quadrilateral rear pouch
- [0024] 14 lateral side pouch
- [0025] 16 top side pouch
- [0026] 17 bottom side pouch
- [0027] 18 shoulder strap
- [0028] 19 shoulder strap
- [0029] 21 corresponding portion
- [0030] 22 corresponding portion
- [0031] 23 top edge
- [0032] 24 corresponding portion

[0033] 26 corresponding portion  
 [0034] 27 bottom edge  
 [0035] 28 adjustable quick release buckle  
 [0036] 29 adjustable quick release buckle  
 [0037] 31 handle  
 [0038] 36 panel  
 [0039] 37 rigid dry erase board  
 [0040] 38 rear or outer wall or panel  
 [0041] 39 separating zipper  
 [0042] 41 non-separating zipper  
 [0043] 42 lateral edge  
 [0044] 43 loop  
 [0045] 44 lateral edge  
 [0046] 46 front panel  
 [0047] 47 rectangular transparent game board  
 [0048] 48 band  
 [0049] 49 rigid frame  
 [0050] 51 elongated opening  
 [0051] 52 front panel  
 [0052] 53 rear panel  
 [0053] 56 top edge  
 [0054] 57 bottom edge  
 [0055] 58 lateral edge  
 [0056] 59 lateral edge  
 [0057] 61 non-separating zipper  
 [0058] 62 mesh pocket  
 [0059] 63 mesh pocket  
 [0060] 66 front panel  
 [0061] 67 back panel  
 [0062] 68 top edge  
 [0063] 69 bottom edge  
 [0064] 71 lateral edge  
 [0065] 72 lateral edge  
 [0066] 73 non-separating zipper  
 [0067] 74 loop  
 [0068] 76 flap  
 [0069] 77 separating zipper  
 [0070] 80 embroidered flower  
 [0071] 81 bottom edge  
 [0072] 82 front panel  
 [0073] 83 rear panel  
 [0074] 84 top edge  
 [0075] 86 lateral edge

[0076] 87 lateral edge  
 [0077] 88 non-separating zipper  
 [0078] 91 mesh pocket  
 [0079] 92 mesh pocket  
 [0080] 93 Velcro patch  
 [0081] 94 Velcro patch  
 [0082] 96 Velcro patch  
 [0083] 97 Velcro patch  
 [0084] 98 service tray  
 [0085] 99 fastening  
 [0086] 101 latch  
 [0087] 102 passenger seat  
 [0088] 111 friction hinge  
 [0089] 112 friction hinge

What is claimed is:

1. A portable pack adapted for placement on an airplane passenger service tray having a fold-down service position and a fold-up position in which it is releasably held by a retention hook,

a quadrilateral rear pouch having a top edge, a bottom edge and laterally opposite side edges, said rear pouch being formed by

a rear panel and a front panel secured together at their corresponding top edges, bottom edges and one of their corresponding laterally opposite side edges to form a pocket for flat items there between

a transparent plastic window in said front panel,

a pair of shoulder straps having

first corresponding portions secured to said rear pouch near its top edge,

second corresponding portions secured to said rear pouch near its bottom edge and

a buckle adjustably connecting said first and second portions of each of said straps,

a quadrilateral front pouch formed of front and rear panels and having a top edge, a bottom edge and laterally opposite side edges, one of said laterally opposite side edges of said front pouch being connected to one of said laterally opposite edges of said rear pouch, and

a fastening secured to said front pouch near the midpoint of the other of its laterally opposite side edges, said fastening being adapted to releasably connect to said retention hook,

a dry erase board in said rear panel of said front pouch, and

a zipper in said rear panel of said front pouch, parallel to said other lateral side edge of said front panel and disposed between said other lateral side edge of said front panel and said dry erase board.

2. The portable pack of claim 1 having at least one friction hinge between said one lateral side edge of said front pouch and said one lateral side edge of said rear pouch.

3. The portable pack of claim 1 wherein said straps are adapted for placement beneath said service tray in its fold-down position to releasably secure said rear pouch to said tray.

4. The portable pack of claim 1 wherein said fastening is a flexible loop.

5. The portable pack of claim 1 including a lateral side pouch having top, bottom and laterally opposite edges; one of said laterally opposite edges of said lateral side pouch being connected to the other of said laterally opposite side edges of said rear pouch, said lateral side pouch including a front panel and a rear panel interconnected at their edges, a zipper in said front panel of said lateral side pouch near said one lateral edge of said lateral side pouch.

6. The portable pack of claim 5 having a pair of side by side mesh pockets on said front panel of said lateral side pouch.

7. The portable pack of claim 5 having a zipper parallel to said laterally opposite edges adapted to releasably interconnect said front pouch to said lateral side pouch when said front pouch and said lateral side pouch are folded onto one another at the front panel side of said rear pouch.

8. The portable pack of claim 1 including top and bottom side pouches, each having front and back panels with interconnected top, bottom and laterally opposite side edges, said top edge of said top side pouch being connected to said top edge of said rear pouch, said top edge of said bottom side pouch being connected to said bottom edge of said rear pouch and zippers in each of said front panels of said top and bottom side pouches near their respective connections to said top and bottom edges of said rear panel.

9. The portable pack of claim 8 having a zipper releasably interconnecting said bottom edges of said top and bottom side pouches.

10. The portable pack of claim 9 having a pair of side by side mesh pockets on said frontal panel of one of said top and bottom side pouches.

11. The portable pack of claim 10 including a flap covering and having a portion extending beyond said back panel of said top side pouch and a pair of laterally Velcro tape patches releasably interconnecting said portion of said flap and said back panel of said top side pouch.

12. The portable pack of claim 1 wherein said shoulder straps are adapted to buckle beneath said tray in its fold-down position.

13. A portable activity pack comprising:

a front rectangular pouch having top, bottom and lateral edges and including

inner and outer walls interconnected at said top, bottom and lateral edges of said front pouch to form a first enclosure for flat items,

a dry erase board secured to and covering a major part of said inner wall, and

a first zipper in said inner wall extending longitudinally adjacent one of said lateral edges to provide access to said first enclosure,

a rear rectangular pouch including

front and back panels having corresponding top and bottom edges and one lateral edge connected to one another to form a pocket between said panels of said rear rectangular pouch for flat items and an opening at the other of their corresponding lateral edges for access to said pocket, said one lateral edge of said back panel of said rear pouch being connected to the other of said lateral edges of said front pouch, and

a transparent window in said front panel of said rear pouch,

a pair of laterally spaced straps having corresponding ends connected to the top and bottom edges of said back panel of said rear pouch,

a lateral side pouch having

top, bottom and lateral edges, one of said lateral edges being connected to the other lateral edge of said rear pouch,

inner and outer panels forming a pocket, and

a second zipper in said inner panel adjacent said one lateral edge of said lateral side pouch providing access to said pocket therein,

a top side pouch having

top, bottom and lateral edges, said top edge of said top side pouch being connected to said top edge of said rear pouch,

inner and outer panels forming a pocket, and

a third zipper in said inner panel of said top side pouch adjacent its top edge,

a bottom side pouch having

top, bottom and lateral edges, said top edge of said bottom side pouch being connected to said bottom edge of said rear pouch,

inner and outer panels forming a pocket and

a fourth zipper in said inner panel of said bottom side pouch adjacent its top edges,

a fifth zipper releasably connecting the other lateral edge of said lateral side pouch to said outer wall of said front pouch, and

a zipper for releasably connecting said second flap to said third flap.

14. The portable activity pack of claim 13 having at least one friction hinge interconnecting said one lateral edge of said rear pouch to said other of said lateral edges of said front pouch.

15. The portable activity pack of claim 13 including a handle secured to said pouch near the top edge of said rear pouch.

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