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(54) **Title**: CHECKPOINT-FRIENDLY BACKPACK

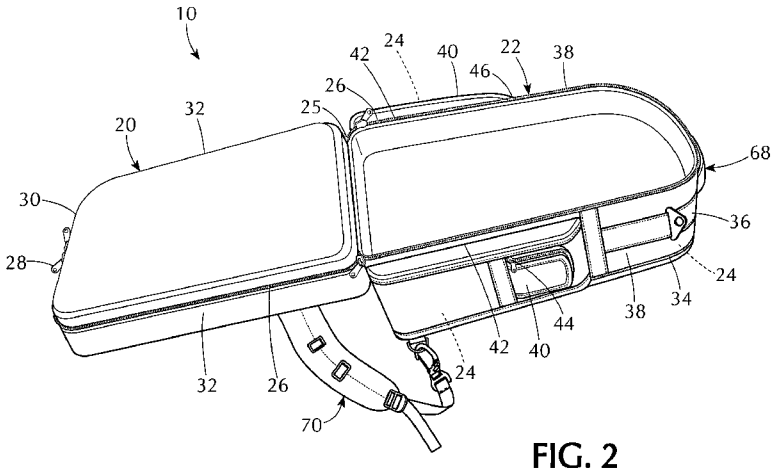

FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract**: A checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion. The backpack includes a dedicated compartment and a non-dedicated compartment. The non-dedicated compartment stores items other than the laptop computer. The dedicated compartment stores only the laptop computer itself, is hingedly attached to the non-dedicated compartment at a common edge, is free of metallic snaps, zippers, and buckles, is free of pockets, and as a non-screening mode where it is replaceably fastened in side-by-side relationship to the non-dedicated compartment by a non-metallic zipper so as to facilitate unfastening the dedicated compartment from the non-dedicated compartment, and a screening mode where it is unfastened from the non-dedicated compartment and unfolded therefrom to lie unobstructed, flat, and substantially coplanar with the non-dedicated compartment.

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CHECKPOINT-FRIENDLY BACKPACK

1. The background of the invention.

A. The field of the invention.

The embodiments of the present invention relate to a backpack for a laptop computer, and more particularly, the embodiments of the present invention relate to a checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion.

B. The description of the prior art.

Since 9/11, the world of public transportation has changed significantly. In fact, there is now a government agency — the Transportation Security Agency ("TSA") — that is responsible for the heightened security at airports and other facilities. The security measures taken by TSA personnel to check each passenger and all packages carried on-board airplanes has resulted in long lines and increased pre-flight boarding times.

While TSA personnel use sophisticated instruments to determine the presence of illegal compounds and objects, there remains a requirement for visual inspection of certain devices. Packages, boxes, and carry-on bags must be opened for these visual inspections, with the opening and closing of these articles adding to the delays of clearing security points.

The laptop computer has become a normal accessory for many travelers, both for work and entertainment during a trip. The conventional laptop computer has no integrated carrying devices, and therefore, usually is placed in a carry case. Most cases have various pockets and compartments to carry peripheral equipment and other things the owner may

include with the laptop computer. The carrying cases may be made of soft or hard materials, which may be padded, and which completely enclose the laptop computer for protection.

To help streamline the security process and better protect laptops, the TSA now allows passengers to leave their laptop computers in backpacks that meet the "checkpoint friendly" standards. For a backpack to be considered "checkpoint friendly," it must meet the following standards:

- Have a designated laptop-only section;
- Allow the laptop-only section to completely unfold to lie flat on the X-ray belt;
- Have no metal snaps, zippers, or buckles inside, underneath, or on top of the laptop-only section;
- Have no pockets on the inside or outside of the laptop-only section; and
- Have nothing packed in the laptop-only section other than the laptop computer itself.

Thus, there exists a need for a laptop backpack to be checkpoint friendly by having a designated laptop-only section, by allowing the laptop-only section to completely unfold to lie flat on the X-ray belt, by having no metal snaps, zippers, or buckles inside, underneath, or on top of the laptop-only section, by having no pockets on the inside or outside of the laptop-only section, and by having nothing packed in the laptop-only section other than the laptop computer itself.

Numerous innovations for laptop backpacks have been provided in the prior art, which will be described below in chronological order to show advancement in the art, and which are incorporated herein by reference thereto. Even though these innovations may be suitable for the individual purposes that they address, nevertheless, they differ from the embodiments of the present invention in that they do not teach a checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a

clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion.

(1) ***United States Patent Number 5,544,792 to Arnwine.***

United States Patent Number 5,544,792 issued to Arnwine on August 13, 1996 in U.S. class 224 and subclass 153 teaches a book bag having a primary compartment and a plurality of substantially identical secondary compartments that are designed to function independently of each other while in a unitary arraignment. The compartments can be converted to a fully open relationship that allows for easy storage into narrow upright lockers. Each compartment has inner and outer parallel side panels connected by a bottom, a top, and two ends. The compartments are interconnected in a side-by-side relationship to the side panel of a mating compartment by zipper elements. Secured to the inner panel of each compartment is a shoulder harness to allow the book bag to be carried in a typical fashion on one's back. Individual compartments may also be carried by a handle secured to the top. Centrally positioned on the outer side panel is an expandable envelope designed for easy retrial of homework assignments or the like. Pockets are also provided on the ends of a compartment for storage of pens, rulers, pencils, or other school supplies. Near the outer side panel along the ends and top extends a U-shaped closure apparatus that when opened allows for entry within each compartment.

(2) ***United States Patent Number 5,706,992 to Moor.***

United States Patent Number 5,706,992 issued to Moor on January 13, 1998 in U.S. class 224 and subclass 657 teaches a backpack for carrying a laptop computer, which includes: flexible front, rear, bottom, and side panels, the interior surfaces of which define the interior of the backpack, and the side panel extends along each side and across the top of the backpack, and the front, rear, and side panels are joined together along their

perimeters; a compartment for storing a laptop computer in the interior of the backpack; a first closure apparatus extending longitudinally along the side panel and transversely across the top to control access to the compartment; at least one adjustable interlocking assembly joined to the backpack so as to bridge the first closure at the bottom half of the backpack, whereby pivotal separation of the first closure along the side and the top panels is restricted to a predetermined interval when the closure apparatus is opened; and a pair of adjustable shoulder straps connected to the exterior of the rear panel for carrying the backpack.

(3) ***United States Patent Number 6,015,072 to Young.***

United States Patent Number 6,015,072 issued to Young on January 18, 2000 in U.S. class 224 and subclass 153 teaches a combination collapsible backpack and lined compartment that includes a backpack formed of a back section, a front section, and a bottom section attached to the front section and the back section. The backpack further includes a pair of shoulder straps attached to the back section. The backpack may be collapsed onto the bottom section of the backpack. An upper lid is attached to the backpack. The lid attachment attaches the bottom section of the backpack and the upper lid when the backpack is collapsed onto the bottom section of the backpack, so that the collapsed backpack is between the bottom section of the backpack and the lid. A carrying compartment has side walls and a bottom wall. A compartment attachment attaches the side walls of the carrying compartment to the bottom section of the backpack, so that the bottom section of the backpack forms a top section of the carrying compartment. A liner having side walls and a bottom wall that substantially correspond with the side walls and bottom section of the carrying compartment is removably placed in the carrying

compartment. A liner attachment detachably attaches the side walls of the liner with the side walls of the first compartment.

(4) ***United States Patent Number US 6,305,587 B1 to Miller.***

United States Patent Number US 6,305,587 B1 issued to Miller on October 23, 2001 in US class 224 and subclass 153 teaches a computer tote that is convertible from a hand-carried attache case to a shoulder-carried backpack. As an attache case, the computer tote may be carried by retractable handles. A convertible compartment houses a shoulder harness and a backpack compartment in a small, compact manner. The convertible compartment can be opened, so that the harness and backpack compartment can be unfolded. The backpack compartment expands the size of the case so as to allow additional items to be carried therein. The shoulder harness facilitates carrying the expanded tote on a user's back. The computer case has numerous other interior and exterior zippered compartments including a computer compartment. The computer compartment is sized for securely containing a portable computer, and is lined with a padded board for protecting the computer.

(5) ***United States Patent Number US 6,796,473 B2 to Purpura.***

United States Patent Number US 6,796,473 B2 issued to Purpura on September 28, 2004 in U.S. class 224 and subclass 576 teaches a laptop computer transport and support system for a mobile environment, such as an airplane, a bus, or a train, is embodied as a wheeled clamshell style backpack carrying case with a retractable handle. The system is employed by unzipping three case edges and lifting a hinged protective cover thereby exposing a computer. The backpack straps unhook from the cover and secure to a user's seatback or around a user's headrest, while strap posts at an opposite backpack strap end extend from the case and prevent strap interference with the user. A foldable or detachable handle permits retractable handle posts to extend on each side of the user and support the system

against the seatback, instead of the user when the system is used. Optionally, computer peripherals within a compartmentalized base are connected within the base to a docking station port and provide the computer with quick access to the peripherals.

(6) ***United States Patent Number US 6,932,256 B2 to Hale et al.***

United States Patent Number US 6,932,256 B2 issued to Hale *et al.* on August 23, 2005 in U.S. class 224 and subclass 637 teaches a pack for carrying school books and other items, with the weight substantially balanced between the front and back of a wearer. A yoke has front and back pouches and an opening for the wearer's head. The sides of the front and back portions of the yoke are releasably connected by flaps at the sides of the back portion, which engage a strip of hook-and-loop material on the front pouch. An auxiliary bag is detachably connected to the back pouch.

(7) ***United States Patent Application Publication Number US 2005/0189188 A1 to Barnes.***

United States Patent Application Publication Number US 2005/0189188 A1 published to Barnes on September 1, 2005 in U.S. class 190 and subclass 110 teaches a protective case for carrying a portable laptop computer within a larger bag. The case includes a padded sleeve that slides within a rigid pocket that is removably attached to the inside of the larger bag. It further provides a modular system of interchangeable bags, padded sleeves, and rigid pockets.

It is apparent that numerous innovations for laptop backpacks have been provided in the prior art, which are adapted to be used. Furthermore, even though these innovations may be suitable for the individual purposes to which they address, nevertheless, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the embodiments of the present invention as heretofore described, namely, a checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop

computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion.

2. The summary of the invention.

Thus, an object of the embodiments of the present invention is to provide a checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion, which avoids the disadvantages of the prior art.

Briefly stated, another object of the embodiments of the present invention is to provide a checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion. The backpack includes a dedicated compartment and a non-dedicated compartment. The non-dedicated compartment stores items other than the laptop computer. The dedicated compartment stores only the laptop computer itself, is hingedly attached to the non-dedicated compartment at a common edge, is free of metallic snaps, metallic zippers, and metallic buckles, is free of pockets, and has a non-screening mode where it is replaceably fastened in side-by-side relationship to the non-dedicated compartment by a non-metallic zipper so as to facilitate unfastening the dedicated compartment from the non-dedicated compartment, and a screening mode where it is unfastened from the non-dedicated compartment and unfolded therefrom to lie unobstructed, flat, and substantially coplanar with the non-dedicated compartment on the inspection station so as to allow the laptop computer stored in the dedicated compartment to provide the clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at the inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated compartment.

The novel features considered characteristic of the embodiments of the present invention are set forth in the appended claims. The embodiments of the present invention themselves, however, both as to their construction and their method of operation together with additional objects and advantages thereof will be best understood from the following description of the specific embodiments when read and understood in connection with the accompanying drawing.

3. The brief description of the drawing.

The figures of the drawing are briefly described as follows:

FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of the checkpoint-friendly backpack of the embodiments of the present invention allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged diagrammatic perspective view of the checkpoint-friendly backpack in the X-ray screening mode identified by **ARROW 2** in **FIGURE 1**;

FIGURE 3 is a diagrammatic perspective view of the checkpoint-friendly backpack in the non-X-ray screening mode;

FIGURE 4 is a diagrammatic rear elevational perspective view taken generally in the direction of **ARROW 4** in **FIGURE 3**;

FIGURE 5 is a diagrammatic front elevational perspective view taken generally in the direction of **ARROW 5** in **FIGURE 3**, with the non-dedicated compartment closed; and

FIGURE 6 is a diagrammatic front elevational perspective view taken generally in the direction of **ARROW 6** in **FIGURE 3**, with the non-dedicated compartment opened.

4. The list of reference numerals utilized in the drawing.

A. General.

10	checkpoint-friendly backpack of embodiments of present invention for allowing laptop computer **12** stored in dedicated portion **14** thereof to provide clear, unobstructed, and distinct image **16** thereof when X-ray screened at inspection station **18** without having to remove laptop computer **12** from dedicated portion **14**
12	laptop computer
14	dedicated portion
16	clear, unobstructed, and distinct image
18	inspection station

B. Configuration of checkpoint-friendly backpack 10.

20	dedicated compartment
22	non-dedicated compartment
24	items other than laptop computer **12**
25	common edge
26	first non-metallic zipper
28	second non-metallic zipper
30	top wall of dedicated compartment **20**
32	pair of side walls of dedicated compartment **20**
34	third non-metallic zipper
36	top wall of non-dedicated compartment **22**
38	pair of side walls of non-dedicated compartment **22**
40	pair of first expandable side pockets

42	lower portions of pair of side walls **38** of non-dedicated compartment **22**, respectively
44	fourth non-metallic zipper
46	fifth non-metallic zipper
48	outer wall of non-dedicated compartment **22**
50	second expandable pocket
52	upper portion of outer wall **48** of non-dedicated compartment **22**
54	third expandable pocket
56	intermediate portion of outer wall **48** of non-dedicated compartment **22**
58	fourth expandable pocket
60	lower portion of outer wall **48** of non-dedicated compartment **22**
62	sixth non-metallic zipper
64	seventh non-metallic zipper
66	eighth non-metallic zipper
68	handle
70	pair of shoulder strap of dedicated compartment **20**

5. The detailed description of the preferred embodiments.

A. General.

Referring now to the figures, in which like numerals indicate like parts, and particularly to **FIGURE 1**, which is a diagrammatic perspective view of the checkpoint-friendly backpack of the embodiments of the present invention allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion, the checkpoint-friendly backpack of the embodiments of the present invention is shown generally at **10** for allowing a laptop computer **12** stored in a dedicated portion **14** thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image **16** thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station **18** without having to remove the laptop computer **12** from the dedicated portion **14**.

B. The configuration of the checkpoint-friendly backpack 10.

The configuration of the checkpoint-friendly backpack **10** can best be seen in **FIGURES 2-6**, which are, respectively, an enlarged diagrammatic perspective view of the checkpoint-friendly backpack in the X-ray screening mode identified by **ARROW 2** in **FIGURE 1**, a diagrammatic perspective view of the checkpoint-friendly backpack in the non-X-ray screening mode, a diagrammatic rear elevational perspective view taken generally in the direction of **ARROW 4** in **FIGURE 3**, a diagrammatic front elevational perspective view taken generally in the direction of **ARROW 5** in **FIGURE 3**, with the non-dedicated compartment closed, and a diagrammatic front elevational perspective view taken generally in the direction of **ARROW 6** in **FIGURE 3**, with the non-dedicated compartment opened, and as such, will be discussed with reference thereto.

The checkpoint-friendly backpack **10** comprises a dedicated compartment **20** and a non-dedicated compartment **22**. The non-dedicated compartment **22** stores items **24** other than the laptop computer **12**. The dedicated compartment **20** stores only the laptop computer **12** itself, is hingedly attached to the non-dedicated compartment **22** at a common edge **25**, is free of metallic snaps, metallic zippers, and metallic buckles, is free of pockets, and has a non-screening mode where it is replaceably fastened in side-by-side relationship to the non-dedicated compartment **22** by a first non-metallic zipper **26** so as to facilitate unfastening the dedicated compartment **20** from the non-dedicated compartment **22**, and a screening mode where it is unfastened from the non-dedicated compartment **22** and unfolded therefrom to lie unobstructed, flat, and substantially coplanar with the non-dedicated compartment **22** on the inspection station **18** so as to allow the laptop computer **12** stored in the dedicated compartment **20** to provide the clear, unobstructed, and distinct image **16** thereof when X-ray screened at the inspection station **18** without having to remove the laptop computer **12** from the dedicated compartment **20**.

The dedicated compartment **20** is accessible for the laptop computer **12** via a second non-metallic zipper **28**. The second non-metallic zipper **28** is disposed continuously on a top wall **30** and on a pair of side walls **32** of the dedicated compartment **20**.

The non-dedicated compartment **22** is accessible for the items **24** other than the laptop computer **12** via a third non-metallic zipper **34**. The third non-metallic zipper **34** is disposed continuously on a top wall **36** and a pair of side walls **38** of the non-dedicated compartment **22**.

The non-dedicated compartment **22** further comprises a pair of first expandable side pockets **40**. The pair of first expandable side pockets **40** are disposed on the side

walls **38** of the non-dedicated compartment **22**, at lower portions **42** thereof, respectively, for storing the items **24** other than the laptop computer **12**.

The pair of first expandable side pockets **40** of the non-dedicated compartment **22** are accessible via a fourth non-metallic zipper **44** and a fifth non-metallic zipper **46**, respectively.

An outer wall **48** of the non-dedicated compartment **22** harbors a second expandable pocket **50** on an upper portion **52** thereof, a third expandable pocket **54** on an intermediate portion **56** thereof, and a fourth expandable pocket **58** on a lower portion **60** thereof.

The second expandable pocket **50**, the third expandable pocket **54**, and the fourth expandable pocket **58** are accessible for the items **24** other than the laptop computer **12** via a sixth non-metallic zipper **62**, a seventh non-metallic zipper **64**, and an eighth non-metallic zipper **66**.

The checkpoint-friendly backpack **10** further comprises a handle **68**. The handle **68** is attached to the top wall **36** of the non-dedicated compartment **22**.

The checkpoint-friendly backpack **10** further comprises a pair of shoulder straps **70**. The pair of shoulder straps **70** extend from the dedicated compartment **20**.

C. The impressions.

It will be understood that each of the elements described above or two or more together may also find a useful application in other types of constructions differing from the types described above.

While the embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described as embodied in a checkpoint-friendly backpack, however, they are not limited to the details shown, since it will be understood that various omissions, modifications,

substitutions, and changes in the forms and details of the embodiments of the present invention illustrated and their operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the embodiments of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the embodiments of the present invention that others can by applying current knowledge readily adapt them for various applications without omitting features that from the standpoint of prior art fairly constitute characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of the embodiments of the present invention.

6. The claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion, comprising:

a) a dedicated compartment; and

b) a non-dedicated compartment;

wherein said non-dedicated compartment stores items other than the laptop computer;

wherein said dedicated compartment stores only the laptop computer itself;

wherein said dedicated compartment is hingedly attached to said non-dedicated compartment at a common edge;

wherein said dedicated compartment is free of metallic snaps, metallic zippers, and metallic buckles;

wherein said dedicated compartment is free of pockets; and

wherein said dedicated compartment has a non-screening mode where it is replaceably fastened in side-by-side relationship to said non-dedicated compartment by a non-metallic zipper so as to facilitate unfastening said dedicated compartment from said non-dedicated compartment, and a screening mode where it is unfastened from said non-dedicated compartment and unfolded therefrom to lie unobstructed, flat, and substantially coplanar with said non-dedicated compartment on the inspection station so as to allow the laptop computer stored in said dedicated compartment to provide the clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when

X-ray screened at the inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from said dedicated compartment.

2. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said dedicated compartment is accessible for the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

3. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said non-metallic zipper is disposed continuously on a top wall and on a pair of side walls of said dedicated compartment.

4. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

5. The backpack of claim 4, wherein said another non-metallic zipper is disposed continuously on a top wall and a pair of side walls of said non-dedicated compartment.

6. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said non-dedicated compartment comprises a pair of expandable side pockets.

7. The backpack of claim 6, wherein said pair of expandable side pockets are disposed on side walls of said non-dedicated compartment, at lower portions thereof, respectively, for storing the items other than the laptop computer.

8. The backpack of claim 6, wherein said pair of expandable side pockets are accessible via a non-metallic zipper and another non-metallic zipper, respectively.

9. The backpack of claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment harbors an expandable pocket on an upper portion thereof.

10. The backpack of claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment harbors an expandable pocket on an intermediate portion thereof.

11. The backpack of claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment harbors an expandable pocket on a lower portion thereof.

12. The backpack of claim 9, wherein said expandable pocket on said upper portion of said outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

13. The backpack of claim 10, wherein said expandable pocket on said intermediate portion of said outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

14. The backpack of claim 11, wherein said expandable pocket on said lower portion of said outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

15. The backpack of claim 1, further comprising a handle; and
wherein said handle is attached to a top wall of said non-dedicated compartment.

16. The backpack of claim 1, further comprising a pair of shoulder straps; and wherein said pair of shoulder straps extend from said dedicated compartment.

AMENDED CLAIMS
received by the International Bureau on 29 July 2010 (29.07.2010).

1. A checkpoint-friendly backpack for allowing a laptop computer stored in a dedicated portion thereof to provide a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated portion, comprising:

a) a dedicated compartment; and

b) a non-dedicated compartment;

wherein said non-dedicated compartment stores items other than the laptop computer;

wherein said dedicated compartment stores only the laptop computer itself;

wherein said dedicated compartment is hingedly attached to said non-dedicated compartment at a common edge;

wherein said dedicated compartment is free of metallic snaps, metallic zippers, metallic buckles, and pockets; and

wherein said dedicated compartment has a non-screening mode where it is replaceably fastened in side-by-side relationship to said non-dedicated compartment by a non-metallic zipper so as to facilitate unfastening said dedicated compartment from said non-dedicated compartment, and a screening mode where it is unfastened from said non-dedicated compartment and unfolded therefrom to lie unobstructed, flat, and substantially coplanar with said non-dedicated compartment on the inspection station so as to allow the laptop computer stored in said dedicated compartment to provide the clear, unobstructed, and distinct image thereof when X-ray screened at the inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from said dedicated compartment.

2. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said dedicated compartment is accessible for the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

3. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said non-metallic zipper is disposed continuously on a top wall and on a pair of side walls of said dedicated compartment.

4. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

5. The backpack of claim 4, wherein said another non-metallic zipper is disposed continuously on a top wall and a pair of side walls of said non-dedicated compartment.

6. The backpack of claim 1, wherein said non-dedicated compartment comprises a pair of expandable side pockets.

7. The backpack of claim 6, wherein said pair of expandable side pockets are disposed on side walls of said non-dedicated compartment, at lower portions thereof, respectively, for storing the items other than the laptop computer.

8. The backpack of claim 6, wherein said pair of expandable side pockets are accessible via a non-metallic zipper and another non-metallic zipper, respectively.

9. The backpack of claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment harbors an expandable pocket on an upper portion thereof.

10. The backpack of claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment harbors an expandable pocket on an intermediate portion thereof.

11. The backpack of claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment harbors an expandable pocket on a lower portion thereof.

12. The backpack of claim 9, wherein said expandable pocket on said upper portion of said outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

13. The backpack of claim 10, wherein said expandable pocket on said intermediate portion of said outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

14. The backpack of claim 11, wherein said expandable pocket on said lower portion of said outer wall of said non-dedicated compartment is accessible for the items other than the laptop computer via another non-metallic zipper.

15. The backpack of claim 1, further comprising a handle; and
wherein said handle is attached to a top wall of said non-dedicated compartment.

16. The backpack of claim 1, further comprising a pair of shoulder straps; and
wherein said pair of shoulder straps extend from said dedicated compartment.

Statement under *Article 19(1)*

Regarding claim 1, Tumi, Inc. ("Tumi") respectfully submits that neither Moor, Hadj-Chikh, Gormick *et al.*, nor Sheikh make any motivating suggestion that the backpack of Moor can be modified by removing the locking assembly and eliminating its function to allow the dedicated and non-dedicated compartments to lie flat, as taught by Hadj-Chikh. Elements have merely been combined in a piecemeal manner in light of Tumi's disclosure to show a lacking an inventive step under *PCT Article 33(3)* by using Tumi's own specification as though it were prior art, and in so doing, the basic mandate inherent in *PCT Article 33(3)* has been violated.

Let's say that there is such a motivating suggestion, a *prima facie* holding of lacking an inventive step under *PCT Article 33(3)* can still not be made out because modifying the backpack of Moor as suggested would prevent the backpack of Moor from functioning in its intended manner, and a *prima facie* holding of lacking an inventive step under *PCT Article 33(3)* cannot be made out if upon modification of the primary reference, the reference does not function in its intended manner. Support can be found in the Examiner's own statement "* * * removing the locking assembly and eliminating its function * * *"[Emphasis added]. An intended function of the backpack of Moor has been explicitly eliminated.

Let's say that modifying the backpack of Moor as suggested would not prevent the backpack of Moor from functioning in its intended manner, a *prima facie* holding of lacking an inventive step under *PCT Article 33(3)* can still not be made out because the Examiner has stated facts beyond the record. "To make the dedicated compartment free of pockets is considered to be the obvious removal of a part and the elimination of its function, for the purpose of design simplicity."[Emphasis added]; and [I]t would have been

obvious to make the dedicated compartment free of metallic snaps, metallic zippers, and metallic buckles, as a matter of preference, based on application requirements for reduced cost and weight."[Emphasis added]. Contrary to the first statement, the removal of the pockets from the dedicated compartment is not "for the purpose of design simplicity," but rather it solves the problem of providing a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image of the laptop when the backpack is in its screening mode and X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated compartment. Contrary to the second statement, making the dedicated compartment free of metallic snaps, metallic zippers, and metallic buckles is not merely "a matter of preference based on application requirements for reduced cost and weight," but rather is for providing a clear, unobstructed, and distinct image of the laptop when the backpack is in its screening mode and X-ray screened at an inspection station without having to remove the laptop computer from the dedicated compartment.

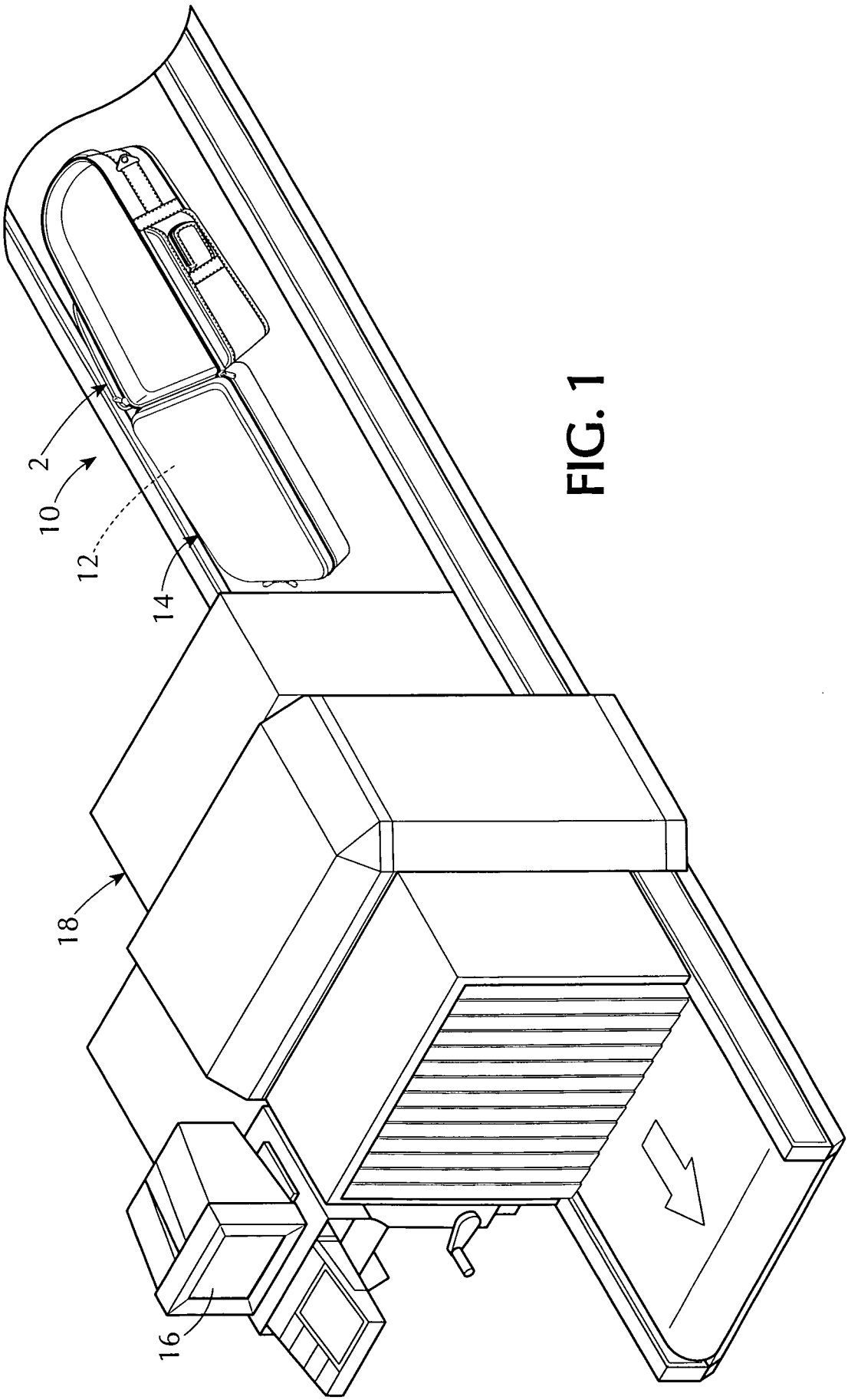

FIG. 1

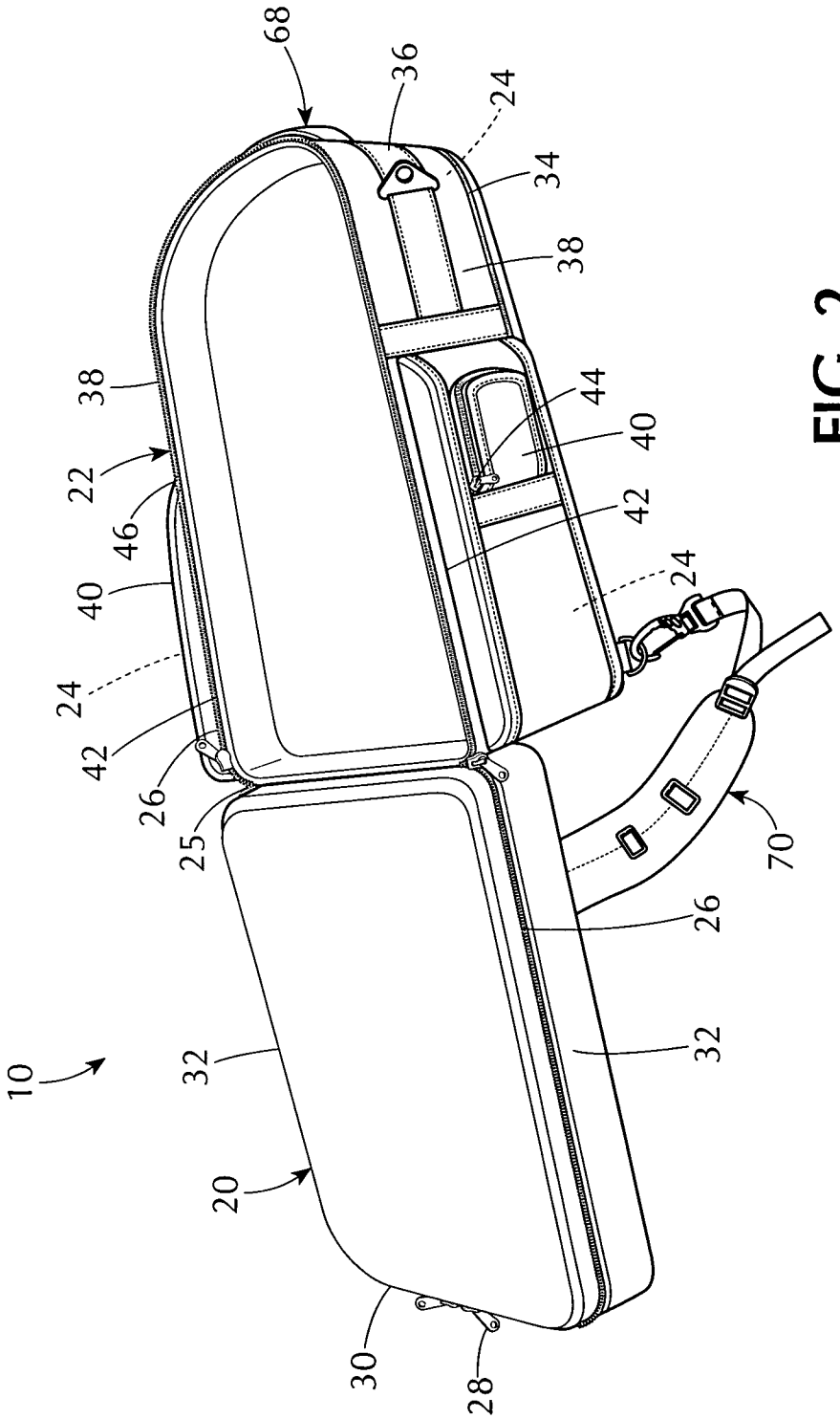
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FIG. 2

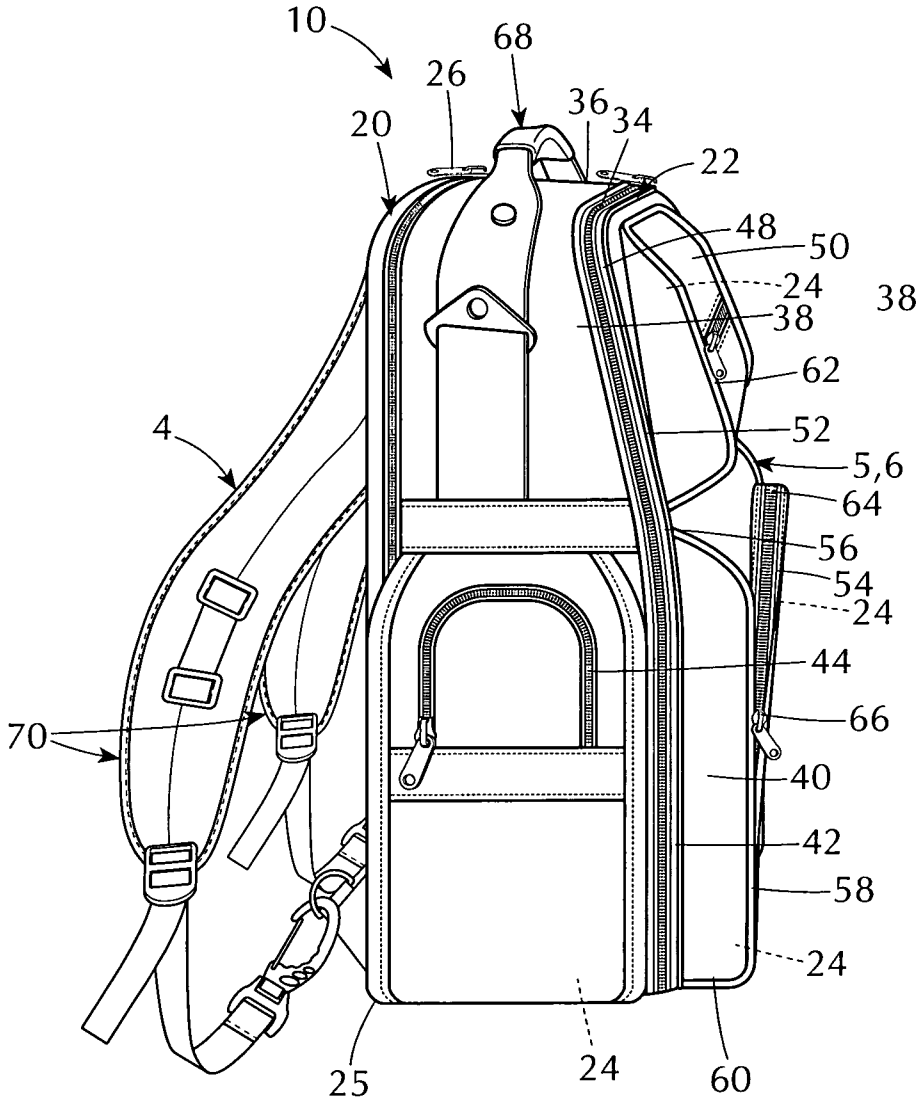
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FIG. 3

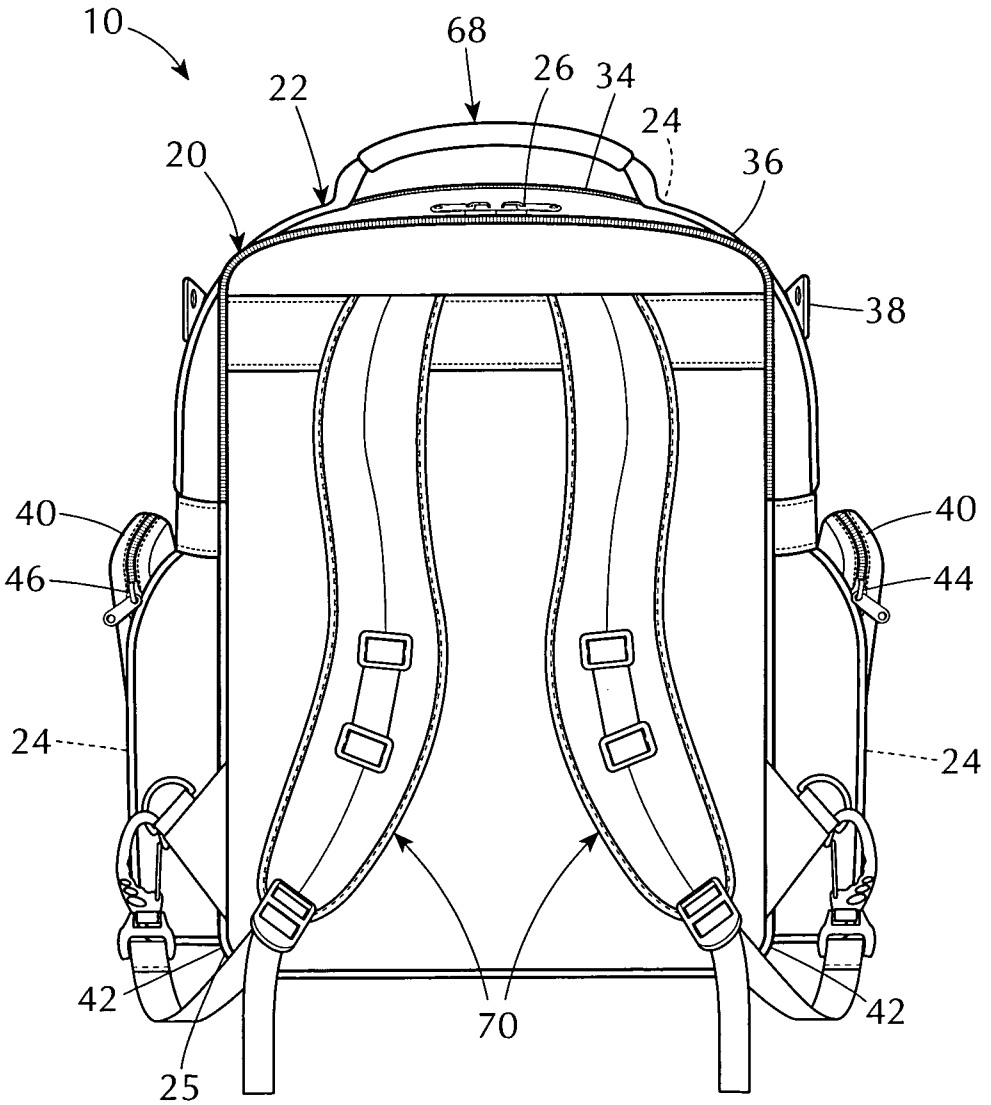

FIG. 4

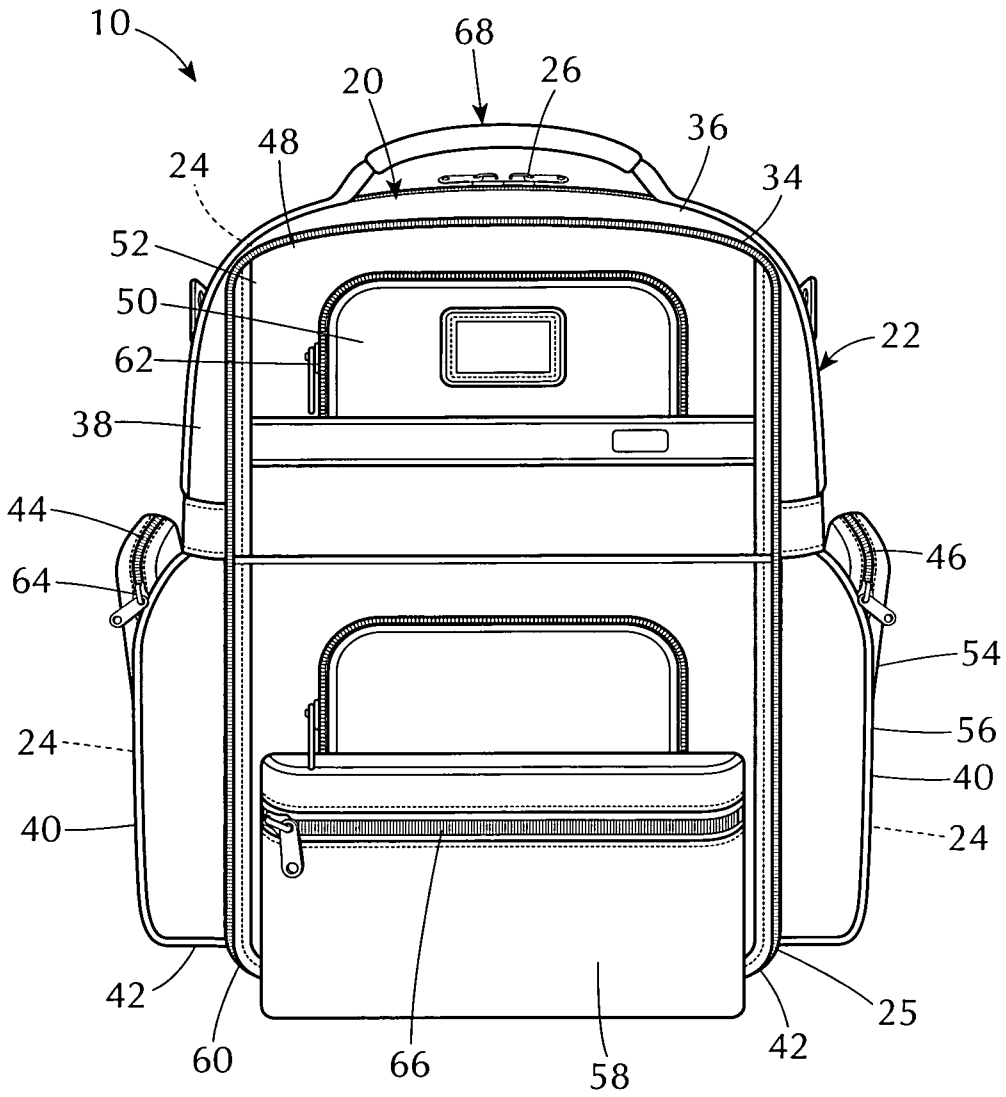
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FIG. 5

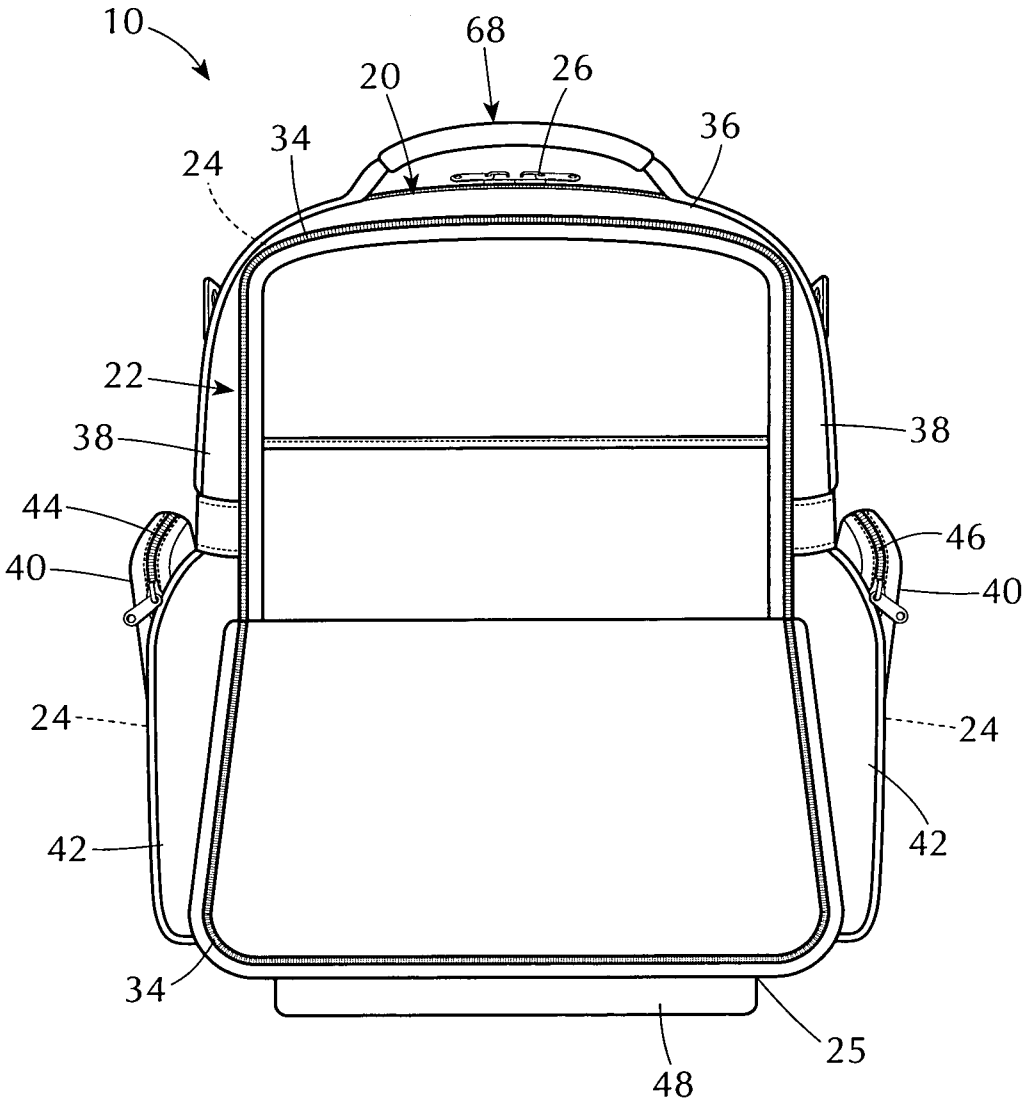

FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2010/000184

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - A45F 3/04 (2010.01)
USPC -
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC(8) - A45F 3/04 (2010.01)
USPC - 190/109, 110, 111, 112, 901; 206/320, 576, 701; 224/153, 576, 640, 642, 643

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
USPTO EAST System (USPGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT), PatBase

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,706,992 A (MOOR) 13 January 1998 (13.01.1998) entire document	1-16
Y	US 2008/0023513 A1 (HADJ-CHIKH) 31 January 2008 (31.01.2008) entire document	1-16
Y	US 7,503,440 B2 (GORMICK et al) 17 March 2009 (17.03.2009) entire document	6-8
Y	CA 2 518 127 A1 (SHEIKH) 02 March 2007 (02.03.2007) entire document	9-14
A	US 6,237,766 B1 (HOLLINGSWORTH) 29 May 2001 (29.05.2001) entire document	1-16
A	US 2005/0189188 A1 (BARNES) 01 September 2005 (01.09.2005) entire document	1-16
A	US 7,487,896 B2 (HOWARD JR et al) 10 February 2009 (10.02.2009) entire document	1-16

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
18 March 2010	31 MAR 2010
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Blaine R. Copenheaver PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774