

improved means should allow a linked round to be used without the need to completely remove the round before starting firing in order to prevent dirt or dust impregnating the round.

5 Summary of Invention

The present invention provides a linked round carrying bag consisting of a flexible sleeve ~~that is sealed at a first end, has an opening at a second end and has an openable closure extending substantially from the first end to the second end, wherein a width of the sleeve is greater than the length of an individual round of the linked round but is less than twice the length of~~
10 ~~an individual round.~~ **within which is carried a linked round, the flexible sleeve being sealed at a first end, having an opening at a second end that extends across the width of the carrying bag, and having an openable closure extending substantially from the first end to the second end, wherein a width of the sleeve is greater than 120% of the length of an individual round of the linked round but is less than 150% the length of an individual round, and wherein when**
15 **in use the end of the linked round can be fed into a firearm and the linked round is pulled out of the sleeve through the opening such that the firearm can be used without the need to further remove the linked round from the sleeve.**

The bag of the present invention is advantageous as it allows a linked round to be both easily
20 carried and to be used in a simple and straightforward manner when needed. This is achieved by placing the linked round in the carrying bag such that the individual rounds extend parallel to the width of the sleeve and a length of the linked round extends in a direction substantially from the first end of the sleeve to the second end. The linked round will be generally be folded such that a linked round that is longer than the sleeve can be contained within the
25 sleeve. When folded, the individual rounds of the linked round will remain in the same orientation and an end of the linked round will be positioned at the opening at the second end of the sleeve. The openable closure allows a linked round to be positioned in the sleeve in a simple manner. When positioned in the sleeve an end of the linked round will be positioned substantially at the opening at the second end of the sleeve.

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The bag may be carried in any manner apparent to a person skilled in the art. For example, it may be folded and strapped to a standard pack. When it is required to use the linked round, the bag is placed in an appropriate position, including being removed from any pack it has been strapped to, the opening at the second end of the sleeve is opened and the end of the

linked round is fed into the firearm. After the end of the linked round has been fed into the firearm the firearm can be used without the need to further remove the linked round from the sleeve. This is possible due to the shape of the sleeve and the positioning of the linked round within the sleeve. In particular, as the linked round is fed into the firearm it will be pulled out of the sleeve from the opening. As all of the bullets in the linked round are parallel to the width of

The width of the sleeve of a bag according to the present invention is **greater than 120% of the length of an individual round of the linked round but is less than 150% the length of an individual round** ~~less than twice the length of an individual round of the linked round that is intended to be stored in the bag, when the bag is in use.~~ This prevents a linked round that is stored in the bag from getting tangled and allows the round to be stored in a manner that allows it to be easily slid out of the sleeve from the opening at the second end of the sleeve. Preferably, ~~the width of the sleeve will be less than 150% of the length of an individual round.~~ **This also** ~~In order to allow a linked round to be stored in a sleeve it is necessary that the width of the sleeve is greater than the length of an individual round of the linked round.~~ However, ~~in order to allow~~ **s** a linked round to be easily but securely stored in the bag and ~~to allow~~ **s** it to be easily removed from the opening at the second end of the sleeve when necessary, ~~it is preferable that the width of the sleeve is greater than 120% of the length of an individual round.~~

15 In accordance with the above, in preferred embodiments of the invention the width of the sleeve is approximately 133% of the length of an individual round.

Standard linked rounds consist of a specific number of individual rounds. For example standard linked rounds generally consist of fifty, one hundred or two hundred individual rounds. The number of individual rounds that make up a linked round define the length of the linked round. In preferred embodiments of the invention the length of the bag from the first end to the second end is approximately a quarter of the length of the linked round that the bag carries when in use. That is, if the bag is intended for use with linked rounds that consist of two hundred individual rounds the length of the bag would be approximately the length of fifty individual rounds. This is preferable as it allows the linked round to be folded in the bag to a length that is easy to carry but that still allows the linked round to be pulled from the bag in a simple manner when required. As will be appreciated, bags that are the same length or half the length of the linked round that the bag is intended to be used with may also be preferred.

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If the sleeve comprises a closing flap then it is advantageous that the bag additionally comprises fastening means for securing the closing flap against an outer surface of the bag. Any suitable fastening means may be used. However, it may be preferable that the sleeve comprises hook and loop fastening means for securing the closing flap against an outer
5 surface of the bag. Hook and loop fastening means are preferred as it allows the closing flap to be securely held in position but also allows the flap to be opened in a quick and simple manner when necessary. If the sleeve comprises a closing flap it is preferable that it is formed such that when folded over it is positioned against the same side of the sleeve as the openable closure and any fastening means for holding the closing flap in position is
10 substantially formed on an inner side of the closing flap and an outer side of the sleeve.

If the bag comprises a closing flap for closing the opening it may be preferable that closing flap has a grab strap attached at an outer end to allow the closing flap to be opened rapidly. Specifically, by including a grab strap it may be possible to open the closing flap simply by
15 pulling on the grab strap. This may be particularly advantageous if the closing flap has fastening means that allow it to be opened by simply pulling firmly on a grab strap, for example if the fastening means is a hook and loop fastening means.

The opening at the second end of the sleeve may be substantially any shape and size that
20 allows the linked round to be pulled out of the bag from the second end of the sleeve in a quick and easy manner. Therefore, as will be understood by a person skilled in the art, the opening should extend substantially across the width of the sleeve. In preferred embodiments of the invention the opening may be substantially triangular or a similar shape and may extend partially along a side of the sleeve. Having the opening extend partially along a side
25 of the sleeve from the first end towards the second end may be preferable as when the opening is opened it allows a user to quickly and easily grasp the end of the linked round. Having an opening extend partially along a side of the sleeve may be particularly preferable if the bag comprises a closing flap, as discussed above.

30 In order to hold a linked round in the proper position within the sleeve the bag may comprise means for holding an end round of the linked round in a position adjacent to