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# Wearable Tool Holder

## Abstract

A tool holder is configured to hold a hammer and, in certain examples, also hold a tape measure. The tool holder includes a clip body having a first side, a second side, and a hinge portion extending therebetween. The clip body is configured to receive a belt of a user between the first and second sides. The tool holder further includes a loop member coupled to the second side of the clip body. The loop member includes a pair of coupling portions each coupled to the second side of the clip body, and a loop portion extending outwardly from a first of the pair of coupling portions to a second of the pair of coupling portions. The loop portion is configured to receive the hammer therethrough.

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## Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATION DATA [0001] The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 63/553,069, entitled “WEARABLE TOOL HOLDER,” filed on Feb. 13, 2024, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION
[0002] The present invention relates to wearable tool holders and, more particularly, to wearable tool holders configured to hold a hammer and a tape measure.
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
[0003] Workers in construction or other environments commonly have to employ hammers and other tools (e.g., tape measures). For example, workers on roofs of buildings or in other environments may have to employ hammers to hammer a relatively large number of nails into structures. The workers may also have to measure distances between nails or other structures, often requiring them to put down their hammer, pick up and use their tape measure, and repeat this cycle or other similar cycles a large number of times. This interchanging of tools, and repeated use of tools, becomes cumbersome when the workers do not have efficient apparatus to hold and/or reliably maintain their tools.
[0004] It is with respect to these and other considerations that the instant disclosure is concerned.
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION
[0005] In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a tool holder is configured to hold one or more tools, such as a hammer and a tape measure. The tool holder includes a clip body having a first side, a second side, and a hinge portion extending therebetween. The clip body is configured to receive a belt of a user between the first and second sides. The tool holder further includes a loop member coupled to the second side of the clip body. The loop member includes a pair of coupling portions each coupled to the second side of the clip body, and a loop portion extending outwardly from a first of the pair of coupling portions to a second of the pair of coupling portions. The loop portion is configured to receive a first tool, such as the hammer, therethrough.
[0006] In another aspect of the invention, the tool holder further includes a plate member coupled to the second side of the clip body in order to allow a second tool, such as the tape measure, to be maintained on the tool holder in addition to the hammer. The plate member may include an inwardly extending joining portion for the tape measure to clip on to. The tool holder thus may be dual purpose, in order to allow at least two separate tools, such as a hammer and a tape measure, to be reliably maintained on a user's side via a coupling between the tool holder and a belt of the user.
[0007] Further objects, features, and advantages of the present invention over the prior art will become apparent from the detailed description of the drawings which follows, when considered with the attached figures.

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## Description

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
[0008] In order that the advantages of the invention will be readily understood, a more particular description of the invention briefly described above will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments that are illustrated in the appended drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the invention and are not therefore to be considered to be limiting of its scope, the invention will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings, in which:
[0009] FIG. **1** illustrates a tool holder in accordance with one embodiment of the invention as employed on a belt of a user, and with a hammer and tape measure, wherein the belt, hammer, and

tape measure are depicted in phantom lines in FIG. **1**;
[0010] FIGS. **2**-**4** are rear perspective, side and rear views of the tool holder illustrated in FIG. **1**;
[0011] FIGS. **5**-**6** are exploded front and rear perspective views of the tool holder illustrated in FIG. **1**; and
[0012] FIGS. **7** and **8** are cross-sectional side exploded and assembled views of the tool holder illustrated in FIG. **1**.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0013] In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a more thorough description of the present invention. It will be apparent, however, to one skilled in the art, that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known features have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the invention.
[0014] It will be understood that the above-described arrangements of apparatus and the method there from are merely illustrative of applications of the principles of this invention and many other embodiments and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the claims.
[0015] As employed herein, the terms “coupled”, “coupling”, and the like shall mean connected together either directly or via one or more intermediate parts or components.
[0016] As employed herein, the term “number” shall mean one or an integer greater than one (i.e., a plurality).
[0017] As employed herein, the term “vertical” shall mean in the y-direction, the term “horizontal” shall mean in the x-direction, and the term “depth” shall mean in the z-direction. As employed herein, the term “inward” shall mean in the negative z-direction or toward a user. As employed herein, the term “outward” shall mean in the positive z-direction or away from a user.
[0018] FIG. **1** shows an isometric view of a wearable tool holder **2** (also referred to herein as a holder), shown as employed with a hammer **200** (shown in phantom line drawing) and a tape measure **300** (shown in phantom line drawing). FIGS. **2**-**8** also show various views of the holder **2**, with FIGS. **5** and **6** showing various exploded isometric views of the holder **2**.
[0019] As shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the holder **2** is configured to be worn or mounted on a person, such as an article of clothing or another wearable which is being worn by the person. In a preferred embodiment, the holder **2** includes a mount which allows connection of the holder **2** to such a wearable. In a preferred configuration, the mount is configured to connect the holder **2** to a belt or similar item (although a belt is preferred, the holder **2** could be connected to a person's pants waistband or the like). In one configuration, this mount comprises a clip body **10**. The holder **2** preferably also includes a support or holder for at least one tool, and preferably two. In a preferred embodiment, the first tool may comprise a hammer (but may comprise other tools, and particularly “T” shaped or similar tools which may be supported in the manner described below). In a preferred configuration, this support comprises a loop member **40** which is supported by the clip body **10**.
[0020] In one example, the clip body **10** includes a first or rear side **12**, a second or front side **14**. Each of first side **12** and front side **14** may have a coupled or proximal end **13** and a free or distal end **15**. In other words, the holder **2** may have a proximal end **13** and a distal end **15**. One end (such as a top end in the orientation illustrated) of each of the first side **12** and second side **14** are connected, such as at or via a hinge portion **16** extending between or connecting the first and second sides **12** and **14** and configured for allowing the first and second sides **12** and **14** to flex or move with respect to each other. Opposing or distal ends **15** (the bottom ends in the orientation as illustrated) of the first side **12** and second side **14** are not connected, thus defining a slot or opening therebetween. Specifically, the first side **12** and second side **14** may move relative to one another (towards and away from one another), such as by flexing or pivoting about the hinge portion **16** when the holder **2** is being connected to or removed from a belt **400** (FIG. **1**)—wherein when being connected to a belt **400**, the clip body **10** and belt **400** are moved relative to one another so that the belt **400** passes between the distal ends **15** of the first side **12** and the second side **14** and upwardly

towards the top/connected end of the clip mount **10**.
[0021] While the first side **12** and second side **14** of the clip body **10** might be separate elements which are joined, in a preferred embodiment, the clip body **10** is preferably molded as a polymeric and/or monomeric unitary component (e.g., a single injection molded piece of material), thus reducing manufacturing cost while still permitting the first side **12** and second side **14** to move relative to one another (via flexing) rather than via a mechanical connector such as a hinge. Further, in this configuration, the first side **12** and second side **14** are biased towards one another without the need for a secondary biasing element.
[0022] The first side **12** may include an extension portion **18** (also referred to herein as a receiving portion) and a base portion **20** located between the extension portion **18** to the hinge portion **16**. In one example, as shown, the base portion **20** may be generally planar. In another embodiment (not shown), the base portion might include strengthening ribs or other protrusions.
[0023] The extension portion **18** may cause the free or distal end **15** of the first side **12** to extend downwardly farther than the free or distal end **15** of the second side **14**, thus acting as a belt guide to help guide the holder **2** onto the wearer's belt or other wearable. In various embodiments, the extension portion may comprise a flange portion **22** and a securing portion **24**. In various embodiments, the flange portion **22** may be in-plane with the base portion **20**. In a preferred configuration, a V-shaped securing portion **24** is located between the flange portion **22** and the base portion **20**, at the location of the free or distal end **15** of the second side **14**. This V-shaped securing portion **24** protrudes towards the second side **14**, such as to touch it or create a narrower channel/opening between the first side **12** and the second side **14**. See also, for example, the section view of the holder **2** shown in FIG. **8**, which shows a preferred geometry of the receiving portion **18**.
[0024] In order to receive the belt **400** (FIG. **1**), the user may slide the flange portion **22** behind their belt **400** and then press the clip body **10** downwardly. The belt **400** is pressed between the first side **12** and the second side **14** of the clip body **10**, with the second side **14** flexing outwardly to allow the clip body **10** to pass over the belt **400**, until it is received between the first and second sides **12** and **14**, or preferably, between the base portion **20** and the second side **14**. This corresponds to the user putting on and/or wearing the tool holder **2**. Subsequently, once the belt **400**, or other suitable member, is secured between the first and second sides **12** and **14** of the clip body **10**, the first side **12** and the second side **14** are biased back towards one another and the V-shaped securing portion **24**, which extends from the base portion **20** toward the second side **14**, can secure the belt **400** between the first and second sides **12** and **14**, e.g., see the pinching effect of the securing portion **24** in FIG. **8**. Should the belt **400** clear the securing portion **24**, the securing portion **24** would bias back and, depending on the belt thickness, touch or contact the second side **14**. However, it is understood that should the belt **400** or other suitable wearable member, such as a waistband of pants, not clear the securing portion **24**, the securing portion **24** will nonetheless bias toward the second side **14** and provide a compressive force against the belt **400** or other suitable wearable member. Similarly, should the thickness of the belt **400** or other suitable wearable member prevent contact between the securing portion **24** and the second side **14**, the securing portion **24** will nonetheless bias toward the second side **14** and provide a compressive force against the belt **400** or another suitable wearable member.
[0025] In accordance with the disclosed concept, the holder **2** is configured to reliably hold first and second tools, and thus includes a first tool holder and a second tool holder. In one embodiment, the first tool holder is configured to hold the hammer **200** (FIG. **1**) at a user's side, thereby allowing the user to use the hammer **200**, quickly and easily place the hammer **200** back in the holder **2**, use the hammer **200** again, etc. In order to perform this function, the loop member **40** may be secured to the clip body **10**, and thus indirectly secured to a user wearing the holder **2**.
[0026] As shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the loop member **40**, which may be made of metallic materials and/or polymeric and/or monomeric materials, and be a unitary component made from a single

piece of material, includes a pair of coupling bars **42** and **44**, and a loop portion **46** extending therebetween (e.g. the loop member **40** effectively has a first end and a second end with a continuous loop portion **46** therebetween). Although the disclosed concept is described and shown in accordance with two coupling bars **42** and **44**, it will be appreciated that a suitable alternative loop member (not shown) may have one or three or more coupling bars, without departing from the disclosed concept.

[0027] As shown in the FIGS., the coupling bars **42** and **44** are configured to be coupled to the clip body **10**. In one example, each of the coupling bars **42** and **44** is planar and is configured to engage with a corresponding planar portion of the clip body **10**, as will be discussed below. Furthermore, in one example each of the coupling bars **42** and **44** has a number of thru holes (two thru holes **42-1** and **42-2** and **44-1** and **44-2** are shown in the FIGS. with each of the coupling bars **42** and **44**). Additionally, the holder **2** further includes a number of coupling members (e.g., without limitation, bolts **50** and nuts **52**) for coupling the coupling bars **42** and **44** to the clip body **10**.

[0028] As indicated above, the tool holder **2** is preferably configured to support at least one second tool, and thus includes a second tool holder. Preferably the second tool is a tape measure (but it could comprise other tools, including laser levels, or other tools, and particularly those which include a mounting clip). As shown in FIG. **5**, the second side **14** of the clip body **10** may include a mounting portion **28**, which may optionally be planar, a pair of coupling surfaces **30** and **32**, and a pair of inward transition portions **34** and **36** extending from the mounting portion **28** away from the first side **12** to each of the coupling surfaces **30** and **32**. The mounting portion **28** may have an elongated slot or recess **29** located at a rear portion (e.g., near the distal end **15** of the second side **14**, opposite the hinge portion **16**), which may serve to accept the outwardly extending edge **304** of a tape measure clip **302**.

[0029] In one example, the coupling surfaces **30** and **32** are each planar and are each configured to engage with the corresponding planar coupling bars **42** and **44** of the loop member **40**. More specifically, the coupling surfaces **30** and **32** may each have a corresponding number of thru holes **30-1** and **30-2** and **32-1** and **32-1**, and the bolts **50** may extend therethrough, and also through the thru holes **42-1** and **42-2** and **44-1** and **44-2** of the coupling bars **42** and **44** in order to allow, e.g., via the nuts **52**, the loop member **40** to be reliably secured to the second side **14** of the clip body **10**. In an alternative example (not shown), coupling bars of a loop member may be directly secured to a first side of a clip body, without departing from the scope of the disclosed concept. In a further alternative example, coupling bars of a loop member, first or second side of a clip body, and a plate member (discussed below), may be affixed to one another without separate coupling members (e.g., be welded, glued, or the like to one another), or with coupling members other than the bolts **50** and the nuts **52** (e.g., with rivets).

[0030] As shown most clearly in FIG. **1**, the loop portion **46** of the loop member **40**, which may be generally U-shaped, may be concave facing up, in the orientation of FIG. **1**. That is, the loop portion **46** may extend downwardly as it extends away from the clip body **10** from the coupling bars **42** and **44**, and then back upwardly at a middle of the loop portion **46** to an outer portion **41** thereof (farthest from the clip body **10**), and where, in combination with the clip body **10**, the loop member **40** defines a central opening or passage **45**. As such, with the hammer **200** (and particularly the elongated handle portion thereof) extending through the central opening or passage **45**, the two opposing sides of the loop member **40** support the front/head and tail/claw portion of the hammer **200**, with the concave configuration of the loop member **40** advantageously causing the hammer **200** to be reliably maintained in the holder **2**. That is, the hammer **200** may, when inserted through the loop member **40**, be cradled by the clip body **10** on one side and an outer portion **41** of the loop portion **46** on the other. Accordingly, a user may then pull the hammer **200** out of the loop member **40**, use the hammer **200**, and place the hammer **200** back into the loop member **40**, with a claw **202** and head **204** of the hammer **200** engaging the loop portion **46** to retain the hammer **200** on the loop member **40**, in one example sequence.

[0031] Additionally, a holder **2** may in one example comprise the clip body **10**, the loop member **40**, and the coupling members such as bolts **50** and nuts **52** (or other suitable coupling mechanism, e.g., rivets, adhesives, or welds), for holding the hammer **200**. In another example, a holder **2** may further comprise a plate member **60** configured to be coupled to the second side **14** of the clip body **10** (and thus cooperate therewith to define the second tool holder), as shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, for allowing the tape measure **300** (FIG. **1**) to also be coupled to and supported by the holder **2** in addition to the hammer **200** (FIG. **1**).
[0032] As shown in FIG. **5**, the plate member **60** may include a central plate **62**, a pair of coupling flanges **64** and **66**, a pair of outward transition portions **68** and **70** extending from the coupling flanges **64** and **66** away from the clip body **10** to the central plate **62**. The coupling flanges **64** and **66** may each include a corresponding number of thru holes **64-1** and **64-2** and **66-1** and **66-2**, and the bolts **50** may extend therethrough, and also through the coupling surfaces **30** and **32** and coupling bars **42** and **44** in order to couple the plate member **60** the clip body **10** as well as the loop member **40**. Additionally, the central plate **62** may be planar in one example, and the plate member **60** may also include a joining portion **72** extending from the central plate **62** inwardly toward the clip body **10**. The joining portion **72** may be a slanted surface extending from the central plate **62** inwardly toward the clip body **10**. It will be appreciated that the joining portion **72** may provide a relatively rigid structure on which the tape measure **300** (FIG. **1**) may be clipped and, due to its inward angle/tilt, creates a wedging function when the clip **302** of the tape measure **300** is placed thereover and slid downwardly.
[0033] In various embodiments, and as shown in the FIGs., the coupling bars **42** and **44** of the loop member **40**, the coupling surfaces **30** and **32** of the clip body **10**, and the coupling flanges **64** and **66** of the plate member **60** may be aligned along the outer edges of the holder **2**. In other words, a horizontal midpoint of the loop member **40**, a horizontal midpoint of the clip body **10**, and a horizontal midpoint of the plate member **60** may be aligned.
[0034] In various embodiments, and as shown in the FIGs., a trough **43** of the loop member **40** may be the lowest point of curvature of the loop member **43**. The trough **43** may extend further from the first side **12** than central plate **62**. In other words, the trough **43** of the loop member **40** may extend beyond the central plate **62** in the z-direction. The trough **43** of the loop member **40** may extend vertically below the central plate **62**. The trough **43** of the loop member **40** may extend vertically below the slot or recess **29**. The trough **43** of the loop member **40** may extend vertically below the flange portion **22**. In this manner, the design allows for space to independently secure and remove each affixed tool.
[0035] Accordingly, in one example the holder **2** is dual purpose in that two separate example tools **200** and **300** (FIG. **1**) can both be reliably maintained on the belt **400** (FIG. **1**) of a user at a single time. As such, if a user, such as a construction worker, needs to use the tape measure **300** (FIG. **1**), the user can unclip the tape measure **300** from the joining portion **72** of the plate member **60**, use the tape measure **300** to measure structures in a work environment, and then re-clip the tape measure **300** to the joining portion **72** of the plate member **60**. Before, after, or while using the tape measure **300**, the user can pull the hammer **200** off of the loop portion **46** of the loop member **40**, use the hammer **200**, and re-insert a shaft **206** of the hammer **200** through the loop portion **46**. This is advantageous, as compared to prior art arrangements in which users often cannot reliably maintain their tools on job sites or other environments.
[0036] Further, in the configuration described herein, the plate member **60** and the loop member **40** are horizontally aligned along a user's belt **400** or another suitable wearable member. Construction works or trade workers often wear numerous tools on their belt **400**. The present invention consolidates two tools, for example a hammer **200** and a tape measure **300**, into one horizontal section of a user's belt **400** and allows the user more free space for maneuver or for securing additional tools.
[0037] In this regard, as indicated above, the tool holder **2** may be utilized to hold other tools (than

a hammer and tape measure). In some embodiments, the second tool holder may have other configurations than a plate member **60** that cooperates with the clip body **10**. For example, the plate member **60** might have shapes other than being generally flat, such as for holding or coupling a second tool such as a punch, flashlight, a level, nail puller, etc., such as being arched or generally semi-circular (but wherein the second tool holder still comprises an element coupled to the clip body **10** such as in the manner described herein).

[0038] Additionally, the clip body **10** secures via a compressive force between the first side **12** and the second side **14**, allowing the second side **14** of the clip body **10** to itself be a surface against which a tool, for example a tape measure **300**, can be secured. As such, the clip body **10** contains both the joining portion **72** and the recess **29** providing greater stability for a tape measure **300** as compared to a single bar passing through the tape measure clip **302**.

[0039] The preferred configuration of the holder **2** has a number of advantages. One advantage is a simpler and less expensive manufacturing design. In particular, as indicated, in a preferred embodiment, the clip body **10** may be molded as a single element and of a polymer or similar material—thus reducing material and manufacturing cost as, for example, against a metal clip having sections which must be connected by a hinge or other elements. Further, the use of a polymer/molded clip body **10** is facilitated by a configuration in which the loop member **40** is connected not only to the clip body **10**, but also the plate member **60** on an opposing side of the clip body **10**. In this configuration, forces which are applied to the loop member **40** are not merely born by the clip body **10**, which might break it, but instead are passed through to the plate member **60**. Likewise, forces on the plate member **60** are passed through to the loop member **40**. In the preferred configuration, the clip body **10** is located between the plate member **60** and the loop member **40**. This results in a reinforcement of the clip body **10** in the area of the connection of those components thereto.

[0040] This description uses examples to describe embodiments of the disclosure and also to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the embodiments, including making and using any devices or systems and performing any incorporated methods. The patentable scope of the disclosure is defined by the claims and may include other examples that occur to those skilled in the art. Such other examples are intended to be within the scope of the claims if they have structural elements that do not differ from the literal language of the claims, or if they include equivalent structural elements with insubstantial differences from the literal language of the claims.

## Claims

**1**. A tool holder configured to hold a hammer, the tool holder comprising: a clip body comprising a first side, a second side, and a hinge portion extending therebetween, the clip body configured to receive a belt of a user between the first and second sides; and a loop member coupled to the second side of the clip body, the loop member comprising a pair of coupling bars each coupled to the second side of the clip body, and a loop portion extending outwardly from a first of the pair of coupling bars to a second of the pair of coupling bars, wherein the loop portion is configured to receive the hammer therethrough.

**2**. The tool holder according to claim 1, further comprising a plate member coupled to the second side of the clip body, wherein the second side of the clip body is disposed between the plate member and the pair of coupling bars of the loop member, and wherein the plate member has a joining portion configured to receive a clip of a tape measure in order to maintain the tape measure on the tool holder.

**3**. The tool holder according to claim 2, wherein the first side of the clip body comprises a base portion and an extension portion extending outwardly from the base portion, and wherein the extension portion has a flange portion extending away from the second side of the clip body in order to allow the belt to be received between the first and second sides.

**4**. The tool holder according to claim 3, wherein the loop portion of the loop member is concave facing upwards in order to allow the hammer to be cradled by a trough of the loop portion.
**5**. The tool holder according to claim 4, wherein the loop portion is disposed vertically below the joining portion.
**6**. The tool holder according to claim 2, wherein the plate member and the loop member are horizontally aligned with respect to the clip body.
**7**. The tool holder according to claim 2, wherein the joining portion is a rigid surface extending inwardly from plate member toward the clip body.
**8**. The tool holder according to claim 7, wherein the second side of the clip body includes an elongated slot for receiving the clip of the tape measure.
**9**. A tool holder comprising: a clip body having a first side having a first end and a second end and a second side having a first end and a second end, said first ends of said first and second sides joined to one another and said second ends of said first and second sides un-joined and biased towards one another; and a loop member having a pair of coupling bars coupled to outer edges of the second side of the clip body and having a loop portion extending outwardly from and between the coupling bars, said loop portion cooperating with said clip body to define a tool receiving opening configured to receive a portion of a tool therethrough with said tool supported by said loop portion.
**10**. The tool holder according to claim 9, further comprising a plate member having coupling flanges coupled to the outer edges of the second side of the clip body and having a central plate disposed between the coupling flanges for receiving a clip of a tape measure.
**11**. The tool holder according to claim 10, wherein the coupling flanges extend inward from the central plate toward the clip body.
**12**. The tool holder according to claim 11, wherein the central plate has a joining portion extending from the central plate toward the clip body and wherein the second side of the clip body has an elongated slot, the joining portion and the elongated slot configured to receive the clip of the tape measure.
**13**. The tool holder according to claim 10, wherein the coupling bars and the coupling flanges are aligned and coupled to each other and coupled to opposite sides of the second side of the clip body.
**14**. The tool holder according to claim 13, wherein the second side of the clip body includes a distal end and the first side of the clip body includes a base portion, a flange portion extending below the distal end, and a securing portion disposed between the base portion and the flange portion, the securing portion having a V-shape vertically aligned with the distal end and protruding toward the second side in order to create a narrow channel between the first side and the second side of the clip body at the distal end.
**15**. A method of manufacturing a tool holder comprising: disposing a clip body comprising a first side, a second side, and a hinge portion extending therebetween; coupling a loop member to the second side of the clip body via a pair of coupling bars, the loop member having a loop portion extending outwardly from a first of the pair of coupling bars to a second of the pair of coupling bars, wherein the loop portion is configured to receive the hammer therethrough.
**16**. The method according to claim 15, further comprising coupling a plate member to the second side of the clip body via a pair of coupling flanges, the plate member having a joining portion configured to receive a clip of a tape measure in order to maintain the tape measure on the tool holder.
**17**. The method according to claim 16, wherein the clip body includes a pair of coupling surfaces at outer edges of the clip body and the coupling surfaces extend between the coupling bars and the coupling flanges to secure the loop member and the plate member, respectively.
**18**. The method according to claim 16, further comprising disposing an elongated slot on the second side of the clip body for receiving the clip of the tape measure.
**19**. The method according to claim 15, wherein the second side of the clip body includes a distal

end, wherein the first side of the clip body includes a base portion and a flange portion extending below the distal end, and further comprising disposing a securing portion between the base portion and the flange portion, the securing portion having a V-shape vertically aligned with the distal end and protruding toward the second side in order to create a narrow channel between the first side and the second side of the clip body at the distal end.

**20**. The method according to 16, wherein the joining portion is a rigid surface extending toward the clip body.