

# Doing the Heavy Lifting

MAN'S CARRYING SLING HANDLES LIFE'S LOADS WITH COMFORT IN MIND **BY EDITH G. TOLCHIN**

**H**ERE'S A multipurpose carrying sling for active families that provides clutch assistance with toting heavier items, strolling with canine friends, and many other uses.

Joe Wold is the inventor and cofounder of LifeHandle. He lives in Boston with his wife and two children.

**Edith G. Tolchin (EGT):** What are the distinct advantages of LifeHandle over comparable products?

**Joe Wold (JW):** The crux of the LifeHandle product line is the Base Sling—made of breathable air mesh; neoprene padding; soft, non-skin-irritating fabrics, and patent-pending HUB technology—to attach LifeHandle accessories including the All-Purpose Handle and the Hands-Free Comfort Leash. The LifeHandle Base Sling works to transfer the weight of what you hold, pull, or lift from your arms and delivers it to the core of your body.

The All-Purpose Handle allows the user to easily hold children, bags, or other heavy items with one arm, and can also be used as leverage

to lift heavy packages or boxes. The Hands-Free Leash is suitable for dogs of any breed, size, or age, and is designed to distribute a dog's pull force across your core and minimize that force with the built-in shock absorber—all while keeping both hands free.

Some noteworthy advantages include the slim, straightforward design; the ease of putting it on and taking it off; and the variety of attachments currently available and those in development that help users "Handle Life with LifeHandle."

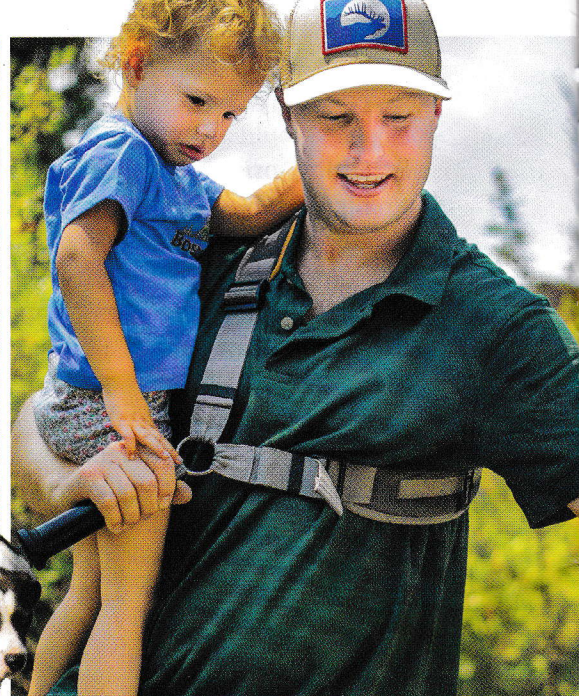
**EGT:** Can you carry a child with LifeHandle?

**JW:** Yes, you can hold children with the LifeHandle Sling and the All-Purpose Handle. The caregiver simply holds the child in their arms and then grabs the handle to transfer the weight. This allows an adult caregiver to hold any size baby or child up to 50 pounds more comfortably.

**EGT:** What led to this invention?

**JW:** The idea for LifeHandle was formed when I was comforting my

The LifeHandle Base Sling works to transfer the weight of what you hold, pull, or lift from your arms and delivers it to the core of your body.





## Joe Wold developed his first sling-and-handle prototype using a guitar strap and some jump rope.



newborn baby one night and was experiencing arm and shoulder pain due to a recent car accident. I investigated several options to take the strain off my shoulder, and nothing seemed to fit.

My best option was a wrap, which would wake up my baby when it was removed. I realized that I needed something more versatile, and developed the first sling-and-handle prototype using a guitar strap and some jump rope.

I quickly determined that the sling and handle needed to be strong enough to hold a child and easily adjustable for quick release. Shortly after, while walking our dog with my daughter, I thought of making the leash accessory hands-free so that I could care for her and know that our dog would not run off.

### **EGT: Was it difficult perfecting your prototype?**

**JW:** It was a labor-intensive process. We went through well over 100 iterations of sling design and accessory tooling. We also tested with hundreds of different body types to be sure the sling was comfortable for adults as they engage in the variety of uses LifeHandle can be adapted to assist with.

### **EGT: Tell us about your patent process.**

**JW:** The idea for LifeHandle and its development took much of my attention. However, I had the opportunity to learn a bit about patent law with my prior inventions and knew it was an important step in the process.

We worked with a reputable law firm and reviewed the design, the attachments, and how it would be used. We have applied for patents for all the LifeHandle products.

### **EGT: Have you done any crowdfunding?**

**JW:** We organized a Kickstarter campaign

toward the end of 2020. It was a great experience. We successfully closed the campaign, selling over 100 units and raising over \$10,000 in 30 days right before Christmas.

### **EGT: Where is the product manufactured and what safety testing are you conducting?**

**JW:** All LifeHandle products are manufactured overseas with high-quality materials, rigorously safety tested with a third-party consumer safety company. We also perform in-house checks as the products are packaged and prepared for shipping to our customers.

### **EGT: Where are you selling?**

**JW:** We are currently only selling LifeHandle products on our website. However, we are in the initial stages to have LifeHandle products offered in stores and are hopeful that happens soon.

### **EGT: Have you had any manufacturing or product development difficulties?**

**JW:** We have been very fortunate to not have experienced any show-stopping manufacturing or product development difficulties. Issues that have come up have been minor, and we have worked through them.

At present, the whole country is dealing with shipping delays. While we are not immune to this, we planned ahead and have plenty of inventory. ☺

*Details: [mylifehandle.com](http://mylifehandle.com)*

**Edith G Tolchin** has written for *Inventors Digest* since 2000. She is an editor ([opinionatededitor.com/testimonials](mailto:opinionatededitor.com/testimonials)), writer ([edietolchin.com](http://edietolchin.com)), and has specialized in China manufacturing since 1990 ([egtglobaltrading.com](http://egtglobaltrading.com)).





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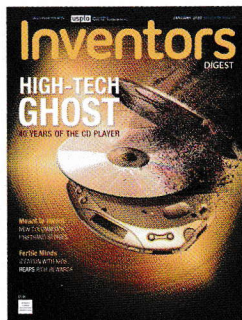
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