Packing in Success

Donna Cooper, CEO of CooperGirl Productions, never thought she would be an inventor until packing for trips became a problem. As the InnovateHER winner for 2017, Donna's idea for the Travel Tube came from her husband's business trips.

"To make it easier to carry clothes in case of missed flights or lost luggage, I suggested we make a case for it, much like a sleeping bag and have it double as a travel pillow", says Donna. After creating the right prototype that was lightweight and washable, she spoke with a SCORE representative who guided in her the right direction.

Armed with the right loan, business license and patent for the product, Donna was thrilled to have had such a positive response from friends and customers. Slim, nimble and easy to use, the lightweight nylon Tube provides extra storage to help you and your clothes get where you’re going while doubling as a neck or back pillow.

The Travel Tube is so much more than just a neck pillow or lumber support for travel. The Tube is perfect for hikers, rock climbers, dance or gymnastics classes, skiers, motorcycle riders, beach trips, sightseeing, and more. It is lightweight, tear resistant and when empty, folds in on itself to fit in its own pouch, which easily fits in a pocket or purse. It supplies quick and easy access to a sweater or jacket, without having to go a stored bag, while leaving the wearer’s hands free.

The Tube is economically priced at $30 and since it can hold 2-3 changes of clothes, (or up to 20 t-shirts) it can help avoid additional baggage fees, literally paying for itself in its first use. The Tube is inconspicuous and perfect for men, women and children. Its unique design allows it to easily be customized for promotional purposes by a company or non-profit organization.

She was encouraged by JWBC staff to apply for the InnovateHER competition and placed first out of seven other presenters. Donna has been very pleased with the JWBC team. She says, "The people at JWBC become part of your team. They are enthusiastic, compelling and genuinely helpful in every way possible. They have extensive programs and training and offer encouragement every step of the way."

Buoyed by her success in the InnovateHER competition, Donna applied for and was accepted to audition for a place on ABC television's program, Shark Tank. Donna received some additional coaching from the JWBC staff before flying to Philadelphia for the audition. Although ultimately she was not chosen for the show, it has not dampened her determination at all.

Jacksonville’s One Spark, a showcase for creators and makers from around the world is slated for October, 2017. As part of the annual two-day entrepreneurial festival, creators will vie a cash prize of $20,000 in the Spark Tank Pitch Presentation. Donna has every intention of being part of One Spark and the Spark Tank competition. Her JWBC team will be right there with her, with advice, encouragement, cheering her on.

To learn more about her innovative creation? Please visit www.tubulartravel.com.
ABOUT US
Donna Cooper
• Bachelor of Arts – Double major Journalism and Radio and Television, San Francisco State University
• More than 30 years in corporate communications and marketing
• Began sewing at 13 years old

Coopergirl Productions, Inc.
• Woman-owned company
• Headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida
• Registered S-Corp dba Tubular Travel
• Trademarked logo
• Patent pending
• 700 prototypes for sale

Manufacturer:
T-Mak International, Inc.
• Woman- and minority-owned business
• Headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida
• Manufactures the product
• Provides complete packaging
• Offers drop-ship services anywhere
• Please see attachment

ABOUT THE TUBE
Slim, nimble and easy to use, the Tube is a convenient solution to messy traveling woes.
• A tubular-shaped storage device 32 inches long with clips and zippers at both ends
• The lightweight carry-on companion meets TSA requirements
• It’s a travel pillow, so no additional baggage fees are required
• The Tube is the only travel pillow that:
  • Provides instant access to extra storage at no extra cost
  • Delivers sturdy neck or lumbar support
  • Easily packs in its own pocket

PERFECT FOR WOMEN
• Women change clothes more often than men
• Women carry more with them when they travel
• Women hold children’s sweaters and jackets when sightseeing
• Great travel pillow for kids in the car on road trips
• Handy storage tool for family camping trips and outdoor sports
• Can serve as a diaper bag

HOW IT WORKS
Zip, Clip & Go
Simply stuff the Tube with sweaters, jackets and other clothes – zip it closed, clip it to your purse, backpack or other carry-on, and go. It’s that easy!
• Durable — Our strategically placed zippers prevent splitting from over-stuffing
• High Quality — We use only the best lightweight, water-resistant nylon to produce a high-quality product you’ll use for years and years
• Unique — Our one-of-a-kind design is inconspicuous and works well for both men and women.

“THE TUBE IS GREAT FOR ROAD TRIPS AND RUNNING EVENTS. IT HOLDS A LOT AND IS A VERY COMFORTABLE NECK PILLOW IN THE CAR,”
Chris McCaffrey, Store Manager, 1st Place Sports, San Marco

“THE TUBE IS HANDY AND WELL MADE. I TRAVEL ALL OVER THE WORLD AND USE IT ON EVERY TRIP,”
Sonya Dessureault, International Dance Instructor