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WASHABLE HANDBAG FOR WOMEN

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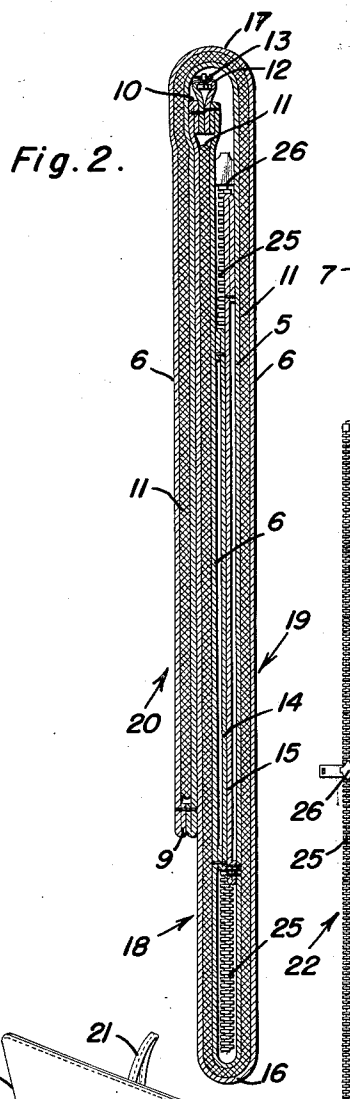


Fig. 2.

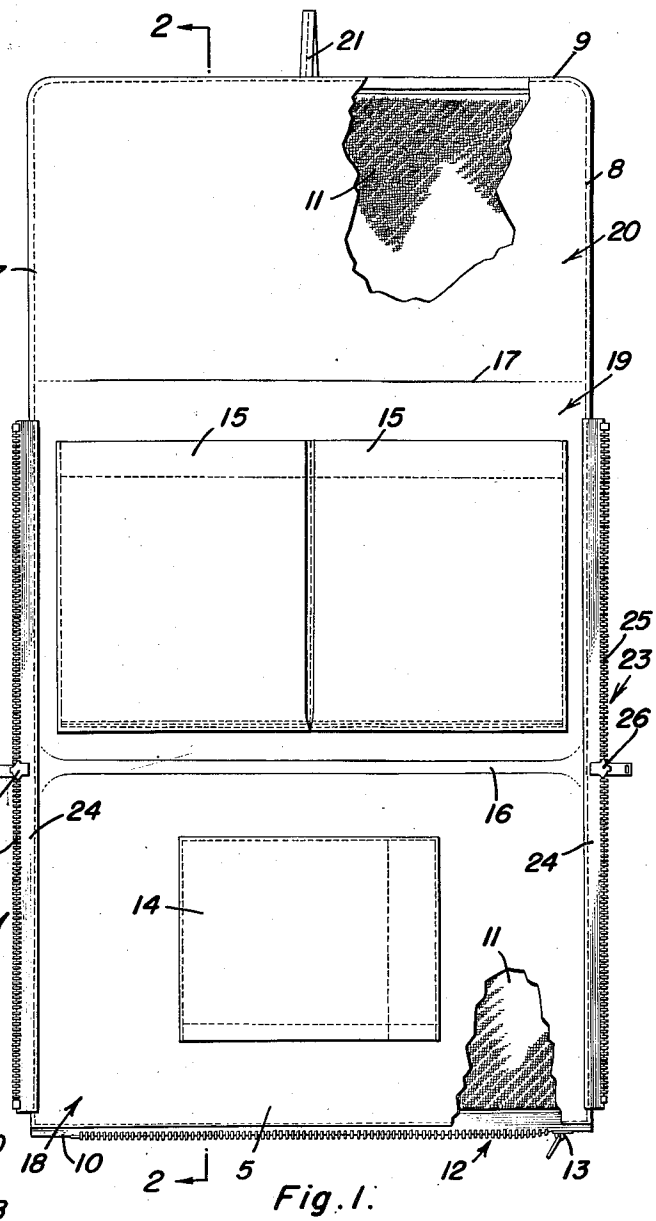


Fig. 1.

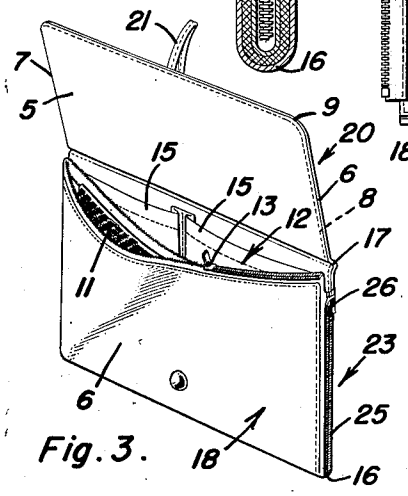


Fig. 3.

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WASHABLE HANDBAG FOR WOMEN

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2 Claims. (Cl. 150—30)

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This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in handbags for use by women and has reference, in particular, to a unique handbag which is launderable and in which users will find their needs fully met, contained and conveniently available.

There exists a need, it is submitted, for a launderable handbag, preferably of washable fabric, which may be washed outside as well as inside and which, though large in size, will be possessed of the firmness and rigidity required for handy carrying, usually beneath one's arm. Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a handbag which, while made of flimsy, washable fabric, is shape-sustaining, easy to handle and carry, and desirably inexpensive.

Another object of the invention is to provide a handbag which may be opened out and thus spread and converted into flat form, whereby to permit it to be put into a tub or washing machine and washed for subsequent ironing, as would be done with any similar article of apparel.

In carrying out a preferred embodiment of the invention, I employ an elongated fabric envelope, the latter being open at one end only, thus providing a washable jacket. Secondly, a semi-rigid insert, which serves as a stiffening form, is slipped into the envelope by way of said open end and the latter is closed, preferably by a slide-fastener, for example, a Zipper type fastener. Then, the envelope with the insert therein is now folded into three parts or divisions, two of which overlap and form a pouch or pocket, the other or third part serving as a closing flap for said pocket. Finally, and by edge-binding, the free edge portions of the first two parts with additional Zipper fasteners and inter-connecting said latter fasteners, an openable and closable pouch is had.

It follows that with the use of two pieces of fabric, three Zippers and a piece of buckram, as a shaping form or backing, and assembling same in a novel manner, I have evolved and produced a novel handbag aptly suited to fulfill the needs of discreet and discriminating users.

Then, too, novelty is predicated on a handbag which, while essentially utilitarian in nature, lends itself to production with requisite factors of design, style and fascinating eye appeal.

Other objects, features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawing.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, wherein like numerals and accompanying lead lines

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are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a top plan view showing a handbag constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention, the same being illustrated as it would appear when spread out flat, portions of the fabric being broken away to show end portions of the reinforcing insert.

Figure 2 is a view in cross-section taken on the plane of the line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows, illustrating the handbag, complete and ready for use.

Figure 3 is a perspective view, on a smaller scale, showing the complete handbag and the essential portions thereof.

The handbag is characterized by two major units, the substantially rectangular washable fabric envelope and the insertable and removable form-imparting and shape-sustaining non-washable insert.

The stated envelope is made up of two similar pieces of fabric, the inner one of which is denoted by the numeral 5 and the outer one by the numeral 6. These are stitched or sewn together around three edges. That is to say, the two longitudinal edges are stitched together (see Fig. 1) at 7 and 8, respectively. One transverse end is also closed by stitching as at 9. The remaining transverse end 10 is open and it is through this open end that the stiffener or insert 11 is inserted and removed. The insert is preferably a blank of buckram or equivalent cardboard-like material. It is of an area to substantially fill the envelope, as brought out in Fig. 1. Referring again to the open end 10, suitable fastener means is employed to normally close said end. Although many types of slide fasteners may be employed for this purpose, a so-called Zipper type fastener 12 with a complemental slide 13 is employed. Thus, in practice, the insert is slipped in through the open end 10 to take the position shown in Fig. 1 and the slide fastener is closed to retain the insert in place. The numerals 14 and 15 designate patch pockets which are stitched to the inner fabric 5. The numeral 16 designates a transverse fold line and 17 a similar fold line. Thus, the envelope is divisible into two main parts 18 and 19 and a complemental auxiliary part 20 which constitutes a closing flap. If desired, the flap may be provided with a finger loop 21. In practice, any suitable fastener means (not detailed) may be employed for keeping the flap closed (see Fig. 3).

Attention is now directed to additional slide fasteners of the aforementioned Zipper type and

these are shown best in Figs. 1 and 3 and are denoted, respectively, on the left by the numeral **22** and on the right by the numeral **23**. They are identical in construction and application. The tape portions **24** are stitched to edge-bind the transverse edges of the parts **18** and **19** and the track portions **25** bridge the fold line **16** and extend equal distances on opposite sides of same. The numerals **26** designate the respective slides. Obviously, by lapping the part **18** over the part **19** and then closing the Zipper fasteners as shown in Fig. 3, said parts **18** and **19** collectively combine in defining a pouch or main pocket, the open mouth of which is closed, obviously, by the aforementioned flap **20**.

In Figs. 2 and 3, the complete handbag is illustrated, and in Fig. 3 a portion of the open end of the part **18** is left open to reveal a corner portion of the buckram insert **11**. Also, this view shows the inside or patch pocket **15**. All of these details are brought out on a greatly exaggerated scale in the cross-section of Fig. 2, in which view the flap is shown in its closed position.

When the user desires to wash and iron her handbag, referring, for example, to Fig. 3, the two Zipper fasteners **22** and **23** are "zipped" to open position, the flap having been opened. Now, the handbag may be spread out flat, as shown in Fig. 1. Next, by opening the Zipper fastener **12**, the insertable and removable stiffener or insert **11** is withdrawn. Consequently, the bag is now sufficiently flimsy that it may be placed in a tub or washing machine and washed and subsequently ironed, if desired. After the envelope or jacket portion is thus laundered, the insert is again restored to its position. I have found that by using a semi-rigid grade of buckram, same will lend itself to folding on the lines **16** and **17** and will yet be sufficiently firm and rigid to sustain the handbag to assume the substantially rigid form depicted in Figs. 2 and 3.

The article herein shown and described is simple, strong and reliable, efficient to handle, and represents, it is submitted, a worthy advance in the production of launderable handbags. Manifestly, the shape may be varied for many pleasing and ornamental effects and materials used which will measure up to expected requirements of discriminating purchasers and users.

It may be added, too, that an extra removable lining (not shown) may be inserted into the aforementioned pouch. Removable, washable linings for purses, pocket books and handbags are perhaps not new. Removable, washable coverings for leather and other expensive type handbags are perhaps not new. As far as is known, a washable fabric envelope with an insertable and removable backing and reinforcing element and an arrangement of the Zippers **22** and **23** to make up a handbag is a novel contribution to this line of endeavor.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, it is believed that a clear understanding of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention, the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and within the scope of the appended claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A handbag for use by women comprising a folding pouch and a foldable closing flap for the mouth portion of said pouch, said pouch embodying duplicate front and back components, the end portions of said components being provided with fasteners, the latter being readily openable and closable and permitting said flap and components, after the fasteners are separated, to be flattened out to lie in a single plane with one another, said pouch and flap being companion portions of an envelope, said envelope being made of washable and launderable fabric and being open at one end and otherwise closed around its marginal edge portions, and a single insertable and removable stiffener located in and fully occupying the entire pocket portion of said envelope, said stiffener being of comparatively rigid but foldable stock.

2. A washable handbag for women comprising a relatively flimsy launderable cloth envelope of rectangular shape embodying two pieces of cloth superimposed on one another and permanently fastened together along their respective longitudinal edges and permanently fastened together across their respective transverse end edges at one end and open across the remaining transverse end, separable fastener means normally closing said open end, a semi-rigid insert fitted into said envelope through said open end and completely filling said envelope and serving to impart and maintain the stated rectangular shape, and separable fasteners along corresponding portions of the stated longitudinal edges of said envelope, said envelope, in conjunction with the insert, being transversely folded into three distinct divisions, two of the latter being identical and parallel to one another and being interconnected by way of said separable fasteners and providing an open mouth article holding pouch and the remaining division providing, when folded over said mouth, a closing flap for said pouch.

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