March 9, 1948. E. A. CZAP 2,437,382

HANDBAG PROVIDED WITH REMOVABLE, WASHABLE COVER

Filed Feb. 1, 1946

FIG. 1

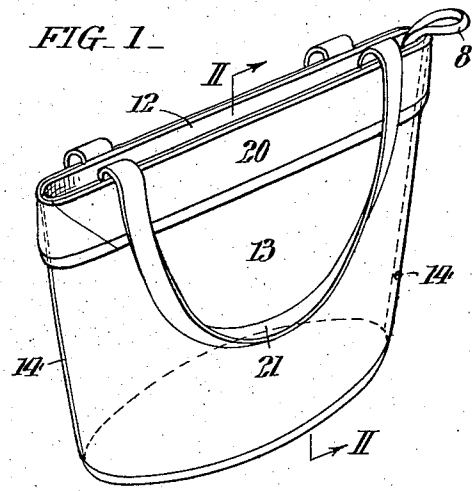


FIG. 3

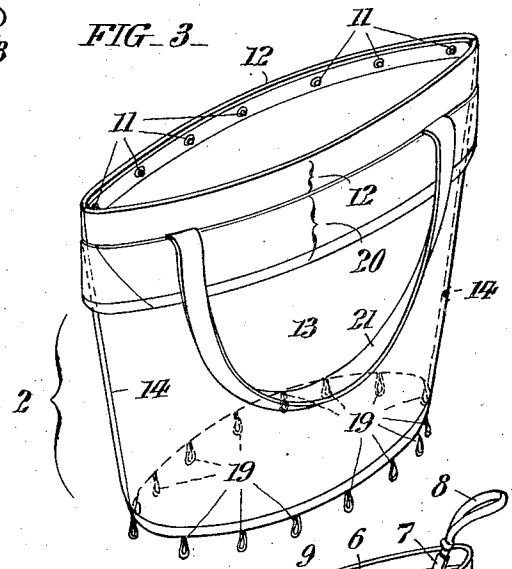


FIG. 2

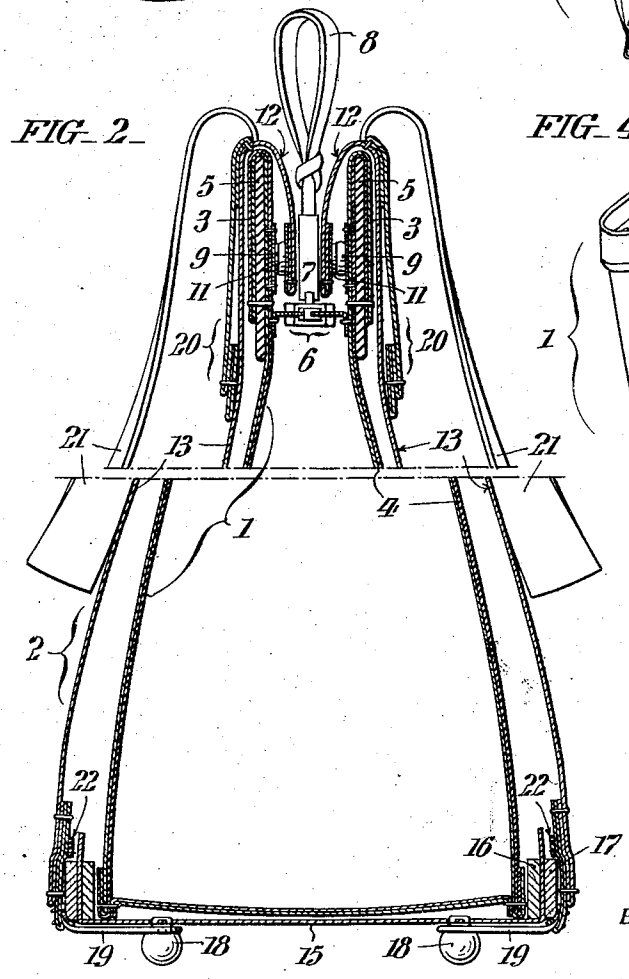


FIG. 4

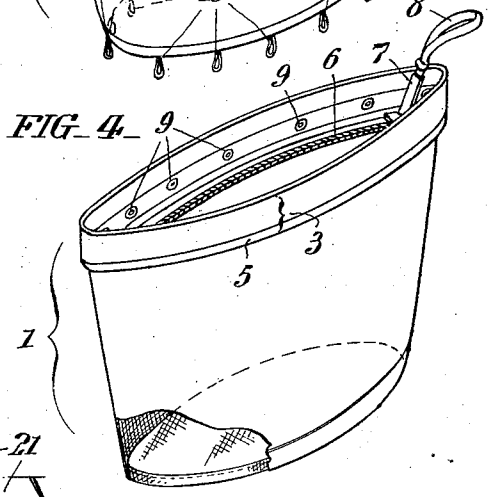
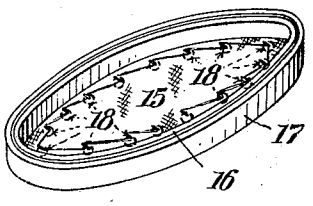


FIG. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HANDBAG PROVIDED WITH REMOVABLE, WASHABLE COVER

Eva A. Czap, Philadelphia, Pa.

Application February 1, 1946, Serial No. 644,891

3 Claims. (Cl. 150—28)

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This invention relates to handbags and more particularly to ladies' handbags of which the exposed materials are washable.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a handbag for ladies which will hold a definite shape and have the utility and attractive appearance of a bag made of stiff material but which is characterized by the use of exterior materials which are washable and readily removable.

A further object of the invention is to provide a handbag of this character which may be easily assembled or disassembled and which is relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the detailed description of an embodiment of the invention which follows hereinafter having reference to the accompanying drawings, whereof:

Fig. 1 represents a perspective view of a complete handbag embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 represents an enlarged cross section of the same taken as indicated by the arrows II—II of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 represents a perspective view of the outer element of the handbag with the inner element and bottom piece removed;

Fig. 4 represents a perspective view of the inner element of the handbag; and

Fig. 5 represents a perspective view of the bottom piece and the stiffening frame therefor.

With reference to the drawings the handbag illustrated therein consists of an inner element 1 and an outer element 2. In order to give shape and body to the handbag, as well as to enhance its utility, the inner element 1 is in the form of a complete bag and is made of crinoline or similar relatively stiff material. Desirably the inner element 1 is reinforced at the top by a marginal down turned portion 3 formed integrally with the inner lining 4 and embracing a strip 5 of cardboard or other stiff material. At the top of the inner element 1 there is attached a conventional slide fastener 6 which serves to close the mouth of the inner bag. The slide 7 of the fastening means 6 preferably has attached thereto a looped cord 8 which renders the slide 7 easily accessible within the mouth of the handbag.

Above the slide fastener 6 and inside the mouth of the inner bag element 1 a row of snap fastening members 9, as best shown in Fig. 4, is provided, these members coacting with complementary fastening members 11 affixed to a flap 12 on the inside of the outer element 2, as

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best shown in Fig. 3. The snap fastening members 9 and 11 serve as a means for detachably securing the outer element 2 to the inner element 1 in an inconspicuous but readily accessible location.

The outer bag element 2 includes a tubular piece 13 of relatively flexible washable material forming the two sides of the handbag. Conveniently the tubular piece 13 may be made up of two similarly shaped blanks sewed together along seams 14 at each end of the handbag. The shape which the tubular piece 13 assumes in the finished bag is not important and may suit the tastes of the designer, according to the prevalent fashions, but it will be observed that this shape is largely determined by the shape of the inner bag element 1 which is sufficiently stiff to give body to the complete assembly.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 5, the outer bag element 2 also includes a removable bottom piece 15 of washable material. A concealed stiffening frame consisting of two hoops 16 and 17 nested one within the other with the fabric of the bottom piece 15 held therebetween gives shape to the bottom of the handbag while permitting the bottom piece to be readily separated from the stiffening frame. Obviously the hoops 16 and 17 may be of any desired form instead of the particular oval shape illustrated in the drawings. In the form illustrated in the drawings herein the bottom piece 15 with its frame consisting of the hoops 16 and 17 is detachably secured to the tubular piece 13 by a row of buttons 18 affixed to the bottom piece 15 near the circumferential edges of the same and a like number of loops 19 attached to the tubular piece 13 and engaging the buttons 18. An advantage of such an arrangement is that when the handbag is resting on a table or the like the buttons 18 will carry the weight of the bag and tend to prevent the bottom piece 15 from soiling as it would if in full contact with the object upon which the bag rests. An elastic strip 22 disposed immediately above the hoop 17 tends to contract the bottom of the tubular piece 13 and thus to increase the tension on the loops 19 so that they are firmly held in engagement with the buttons 18.

At the top of the outer element 2 there is provided an interior flap 12 which carries the fastening members 11 and an exterior cuff 20. Straps 21 for carrying the handbag are desirably attached to the outer element 2 between the cuff 20 and the inwardly projecting flap 12.

While I have shown and described one example of a handbag embodying my invention, it will

be apparent that various modifications may be made therein, including obvious reversals of parts and that certain features of the invention may be utilized to advantage without a corresponding use of other features all without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the annexed claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A handbag consisting of inner and outer elements, the inner element being in the form of a complete bag and made of relatively stiff material, and the outer element consisting of a relatively flexible tubular fabric forming the two sides of the handbag and a separate piece forming the bottom thereof, said tubular fabric and bottom piece being of washable material, a concealed stiffening frame for giving shape to the bottom piece of the outer element, means for detachably securing the inner element to the top of said tubular fabric, and means for detachably securing the bottom piece with its frame to the tubular fabric, the fabric of the bottom piece being readily separable from its stiffening frame.

2. A handbag consisting of inner and outer elements, the inner element being in the form of a complete bag and made of relatively stiff material, and the outer element consisting of a piece forming the two sides of the handbag and a separate piece forming the bottom thereof, said pieces being of washable material, a concealed stiffening frame for the bottom piece comprising two hoops fitting one within the other with the fabric of the bottom piece frictionally held therebetween and otherwise unattached to said stiffening frame, and fastener means for detachably securing the inner and outer elements together, and means for detachably securing the bottom piece with its frame to said sides.

3. A handbag consisting of inner and outer elements, the inner element being in the form of a bag and made of relatively stiff material, and the outer element consisting of a piece forming the two sides of the handbag and a separate piece forming the bottom thereof, said pieces being of washable material, a stiffening frame for the bottom piece comprising two hoops fitting one within the other with the fabric of the bottom piece held therebetween, and fastener means for detachably securing the inner and outer elements together, and means for detachably securing the bottom piece with its frame to said sides, said means comprising a row of buttons and a row of loops, one such row being attached to the bottom piece, and the other to said sides, and elastic means for contracting the outer element to hold the buttons and loops in firm engagement.

EVA A. CZAP.

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