Aug. 30, 1966 K. W. DU BOIS 3,269,620

GUN HOLSTERS AND OTHER CARRYING CASES

Filed Oct. 1, 1964

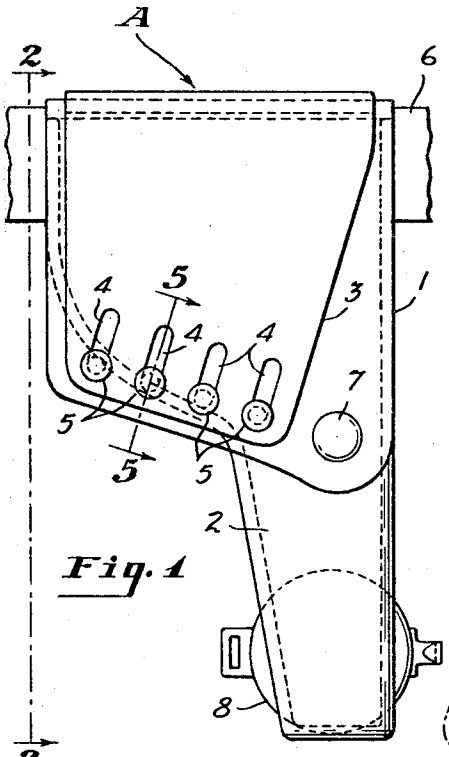

Fig. 1

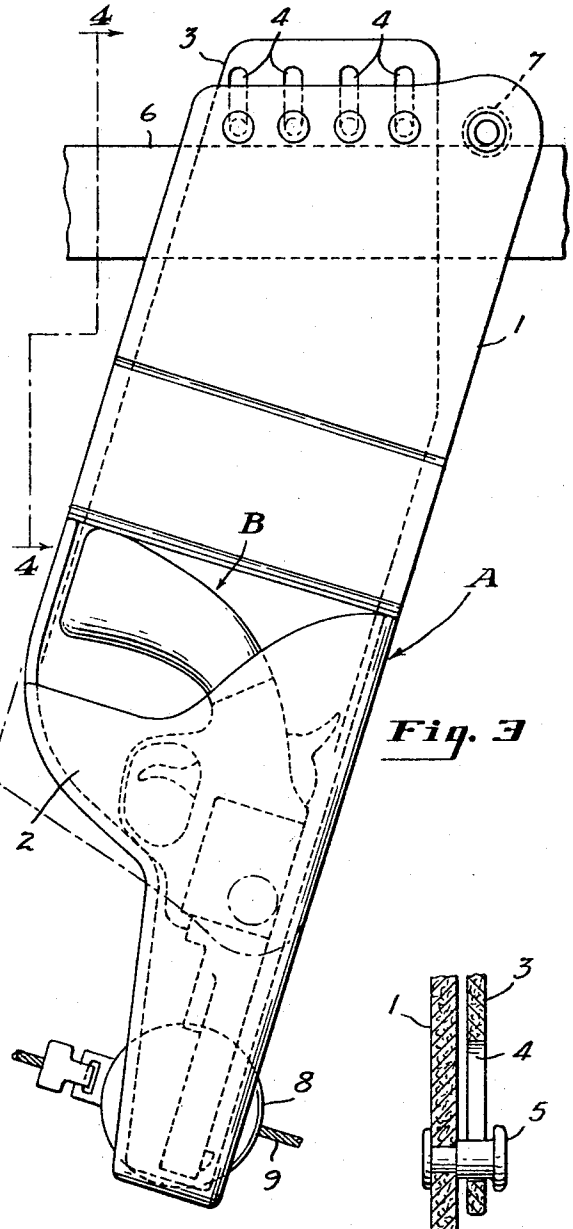

Fig. 3

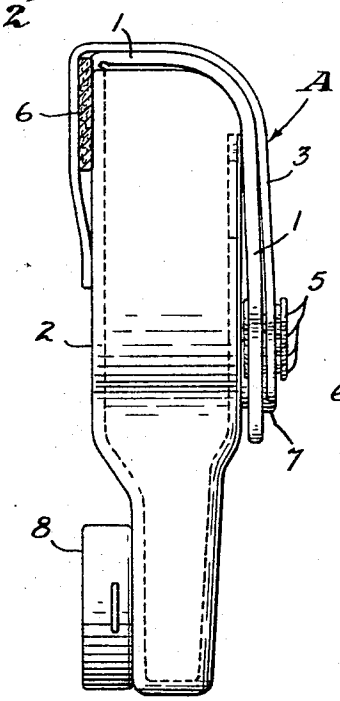

Fig. 2

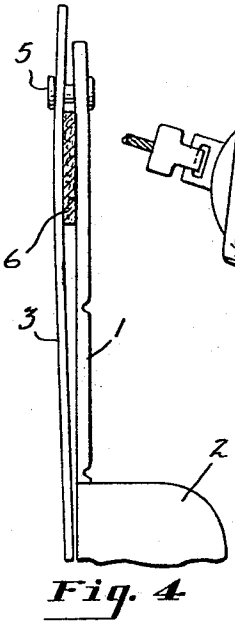

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

INVENTOR
Kenneth W. Du Bois

BY McCoy, Greene, Medert & De Grotenhuis
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,269,620 Patented August 30, 1966

3,269,620

GUN HOLSTERS AND OTHER CARRYING CASES

Kenneth W. Du Bois, 295 S. Rocky River Drive, Berea, Ohio

Filed Oct. 1, 1964, Ser. No. 400,769
6 Claims. (Cl. 224—2)

This invention relates to cases or holsters for carrying articles such as hand guns and the like on a waist belt or shoulder strap worn by a carrier, in which the article may be carried either at a high position close to the body when the case is closed or at a low-slung more accessible position when the case is open. More particularly, the invention relates to leather carrying cases or holsters for articles to be supported from the waist belt or shoulder strap of a carrier, wherein means is provided for moving the case downwardly from the supporting belt or strap to a low-slung position when the case is opened in order to provide better accessibility for removing or returning the encased article. The invention is particularly applicable to holsters for hand guns, either pistols or revolvers, which are normally carried by police officers, military personnel and the like. Several disadvantages have been inherent in the types of holsters heretofore used. Belt type holsters which are carried on the waist belt support the hand gun too high to permit rapid removal when necessary. On the other hand, low-slung holsters which are suspended loosely from the waist provide better access to the hand gun but are carried too loosely and tend to swing uncontrollably on the body of the wearer. Also, it is difficult to drive a vehicle and perform other physical tasks which require the use of both hands, when wearing a low-slung type holster.

The holster of the present invention, however, provides for supporting the hand gun in two positions. In the carrying position, the holster is attached tightly to the waist belt of the wearer and is, therefore, carried snugly at waist height to provide a convenient secure location for the hand gun while performing other physical tasks. When a need for use of the hand gun is expected, the holster may be opened and moved to a low-slung ready position using only one hand merely by unfastening the cover flap of the holster and pulling the holster downwardly so that the holster is suspended below the waist belt by means of the open cover flap, the open end of which is attached to the belt.

Other embodiments of the invention provide a convenient means for supporting cases for articles, such as cameras, camera lenses, cigarettes, playing cards, and other personal items which a user may desire to carry on his waist belt or on a shoulder strap. Here too, the case permits the article to be carried at a high carrying position or at a low-slung ready position to permit better accessibility to the case for removing or returning the article. When the article has been returned to the low-slung case, the case may be easily returned to its carrying position using only one hand merely by pulling the cover flap upwardly to position the belt or other fastener near the back of the case and permit the cover to be closed across the open end thereof.

These advantages of the present invention are achieved through the use of a strap which overlies the cover flap and which is attached at one end to the cover flap adjacent the front end of the flap and at the other end to either the back of the case or holster or the rearward end of the cover flap. The strap thus co-operates with the cover flap so that a belt or other fastener may be passed between the cover flap and the strap to support the case. When the cover flap is closed, the belt or other fastener of the wearer passes between the cover flap and the strap adjacent the back of the case. This arrangement provides for the supporting of the case at a waist high carrying position on the body of the wearer. When the cover flap is opened, the case or holster may be pulled downwardly so that the belt or fastener slides upwardly between the cover and the strap until it is positioned between the open cover and the strap adjacent the forward end thereof. In this condition, the case hangs at a low slung position with the cover open and clear of the open end of the case, thus permitting easy access with one hand while the carrier is climbing, driving a vehicle or performing other simultaneous tasks.

With the foregoing in view, it is an object of the invention to provide an improved carrying case for hand guns and other articles to be carried at the waist of a wearer wherein the case may be carried at a high carrying position close to the body or a low-slung position providing better accessibility.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel carrying case to be supported on the belt or shoulder harness of the wearer, which may be easily adjusted to a position providing improved access to articles in the case, with speed and safety and with no danger of losing the contents of the case.

Other objects, uses and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon reference to the following detailed description and drawings in connection with the following specification wherein like parts are identified by like numerals and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of a holster for a hand gun embodying the present invention with the holster shown supported at a waist high carrying position and the cover flap closed across the open end of the case;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view taken from the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a front elevational view of the holster shown in FIGURE 1 showing the cover flap of the holster open and the gun carried at a low-slung ready position for better accessibility;

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary side elevational view taken from the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of FIGURE 1.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, FIGURES 1 through 5 show a holster A formed of leather or other suitable material for carrying a hand gun B. The holster includes a cover flap 1 with an attachment means embodying the present invention for supporting the holster on the belt or shoulder strap of the wearer.

The holster A has an open-ended body portion 2 forming a chamber contoured to receive the hand gun B.

Attached to the cover flap 1 is a mounting strap 3 attached at one end to the back of the body portion 2 and at its other end to the front of the flap 1. The forward end of the strap 3 has eyes 4 formed therein adapted to receive buttons 5 attached to the cover flap 1, as best shown in FIGURE 5. This provides a means permitting the strap 3 to shift relative to the cover flap 1 when the flap 1 is moved between its open and closed positions.

The holster A is attached to the belt 6 of the wearer by sliding the belt between the strap 3 and the cover flap 1.

By pulling the cover flap 1 upward and then closing it over the open end of the body portion, as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, the belt 6 is moved to the back of the case so that the holster A is supported in a high position close to the waist of the carrier. A snap 7 is provided on the cover for snapping it to the body portion 2.

When it is desired to carry the holster A at a low-slung ready position with the cover opened, the snap 7 is released and the body portion 2 pulled downwardly so that the belt 6 slides between the cover flap 1 and the strap 3

to the position shown in FIGURES 3 and 4. This may, of course, be easily accomplished with one hand without detaching the holster. In this position, the cover flap **1** is held securely away from and clear of the gun B in the holster A and the gun B is carried at a low-slung ready position to permit easy removal from the case when desired.

A retractable spring loaded tension reel **8** carrying a chain or cable **9** may be mounted on the bottom of the holster A to permit the holster to be strapped to the leg of a wearer when carried at the low-slung ready position. The reel **8** may be of the type sold under the trade designation "Key-Bak" and sold by the C.T.L. Company of 1710 W. Stewart Ave., Wausau, Wisconsin. A lanyard or thong may, of course, also be used if desired.

Other similar cases may, of course, be used in connection with the type of supporting arrangement embodied in the present inventions. Such items could include camera cases, camera accessory equipment bags, cases for binoculars, and many other personal items adapted to be carried in a case attached to the body of the carrier.

It is to be understood that, in accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, variations and modifications of the specific devices herein shown and described may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. A carrying case which may be carried on the body by a suspension member, comprising an open-ended body portion for receiving articles to be carried therein, a cover having a rearward end attached to said body portion and a forward end, said cover having an unfolded upwardly extending open position and a folded closed position wherein said cover extends across the open end of said body portion, and a strap extending between the forward end and the rearward end of said cover and having similar unfolded and folded positions, said strap having slots extending substantially vertical at its outside and said cover having fasteners extending through the slots, said suspension member being slidably received between said strap and said cover, whereby said suspension member supports said case from the rearward end of said cover when said cover is closed to provide a high secure position and from the forward end of said cover when said cover is open to provide a low-slung position.

2. In combination, a suspension member which may be worn on the body for carrying a holster, and a hand-gun holster comprising an open-ended, hand-gun-receiving body portion, a cover flap having a rearward end attached to said body portion and a forward end, said cover flap having an unfolded upwardly extending open position and a folded closed position wherein said cover flap extends across the open end of said body portion, and a strap extending between the forward end and the rearward end of said cover flap and having similar unfolded and folded positions, said strap having slots extending substantially vertical at its outside and said cover flap having fasteners extending through the slots, said suspension member being slidably received between said strap and said cover flap whereby said suspension member supports said holster from the rearward end of said cover flap when said cover flap is closed to provide a high secure position and from the forward end of said cover flap when said cover flap is open to provide a low-slung position.

3. A combination as defined in claim **2** wherein said suspension member is a waist belt.

4. A combination as defined in claim **2** wherein said suspension member is a shoulder harness.

5. In combination, a hand-gun bolster which may be carried on the body by a suspension member, comprising an open-ended, hand-gun-receiving body portion, a cover flap having a rearward end attached to said body portion and a forward end, said cover flap having an upwardly extending open position and a closed position wherein said cover flap extends across the open end of said body portion, and a strap extending between the forward end and the rearward end of said cover flap, said suspension member being slidably received between said strap and said cover flap whereby said suspension member supports said holster from the rearward end of said cover flap when said cover flap is closed to provide a high secure position and from the forward end of said cover flap when said cover flap is open to provide a slow-slung position, and a retractable spring loaded tension reel member mounted on the bottom of said body portion and having a flexible line therein adapted to be looped around a leg of the holster wearer to secure said holster to the body when in its low-slung position.

6. A carrying case in accordance with claim **1** wherein the body portion is adapted to receive a hand gun.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

3,113,796	12/1963	Neil	224—2

FOREIGN PATENTS

107,318	3/1943	Sweden.

GERALD M. FORLENZA, *Primary Examiner.*

J. E. OLDS, *Assistant Examiner.*