

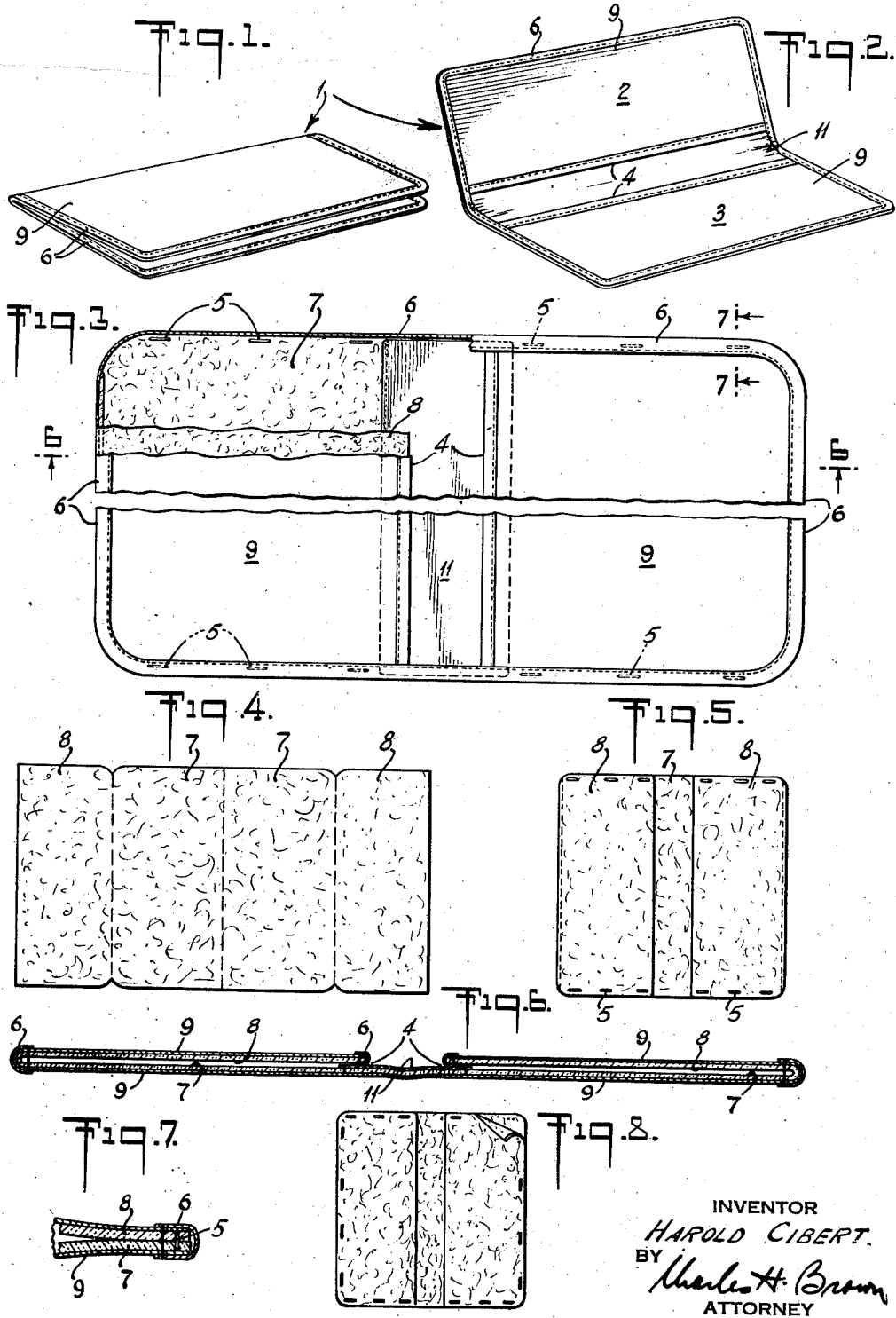
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FIRE RESISTANT PORTFOLIO, DOCUMENT FOLDER, OR THE LIKE

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## FIRE RESISTANT PORTFOLIO, DOCUMENT FOLDER, OR THE LIKE

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### 1 Claim. (Cl. 150—38)

This invention comprises a fire resistant portfolio, large wallet, portable document file, or the like.

In its preferred form, the invention comprises a folded portfolio or wallet having tight pockets whose walls include a lining of asbestos material. This asbestos lining directly contacts the documents or papers which are inserted in the pockets, and thus protects them against fire. The edges of the pockets are stapled together to prevent fire from entering the pockets from the sides. Due to the closely fitting walls of the pockets, there is negligible space for any fire to enter the pockets. The opening of the pockets is merely a slit and is preferably closed by a zipper arrangement whose ends are also stapled to the ends of the pocket openings. The outer surfaces of the asbestos lining may be covered by a smooth layer of attractive material, such as leatherette, or chemically treated paper.

The following is a more detailed description of the invention, in conjunction with a drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a portfolio or wallet, in closed position, in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is an open view of the same portfolio or wallet;

Fig. 3 shows a face view of the portfolio or wallet completely opened and broken away in certain parts to illustrate the construction more clearly;

Figs. 4 and 5 illustrate the development of the portfolio or wallet in the process of manufacture, and particularly show how the asbestos lining is put together to form the pockets;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view along the line 6—6 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view along the line 7—7 of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 8 is an alternative form of development of the asbestos liner in the process of manufacture.

Throughout the figures of the drawing, the same parts are labeled by the same reference numerals.

Referring to the drawing in more detail, there is shown a foldable portfolio or document folder 1 which is divided at the center into two sections 2 and 3. Each section has a tight pocket with closely fitting walls and with a slit-like opening at 4. The dimensions of each pocket are fixed at their edges by metallic staples 5 hidden in the completed article by stitching or edging 6.

The inner walls of the pockets are labeled 7 and 8 and are formed by an asbestos liner. The manner in which this liner is utilized to form the pockets may more readily be understood from an inspection of Figs. 4 and 5 which are developments in the process of manufacturing the portfolio or wallet. Fig. 4 shows the first step in the process of manufacture and illustrates a single

piece of asbestos shown arbitrarily divided by dotted lines into parts 7 and 8. These dotted lines form the folds for the article. In Fig. 5, the end portions 8, shown in Fig. 4, have been folded over the inner portions 7 and stapled at the outer edges to form two pockets with closely fitting walls.

Although Figs. 4 and 5 show how the pockets may be made from a single piece of asbestos, it should be understood that, if desired, the inner and outer walls of the pockets may be made from separate pieces of asbestos lining stapled together at their outer edges. One such arrangement is shown in Fig. 8.

In manufacturing the complete article, the asbestos lining is covered with a suitable attractive coating material 9 which is stitched to all of the edges of the portfolio or wallet, as shown. This coating 9 may be leatherette, or a chemically treated paper material, or any other desired coating material. The sections 2 and 3 of the completed article may thus be semi-rigid in character, depending in large part upon the nature of the covering material 9.

It should be noted that the central inner portion of the portfolio or pocket is also covered with a strip 11 of the coating 9 in order to prevent the unattractive asbestos lining from being seen when the article is open. This is shown in Figs. 3 and 6.

Because of the fire resistant character of the asbestos lining 7, 8, the portfolio cannot be completely consumed by fire, and will protect any documents held between the walls of the pockets, even though the outer covering 9 is burned. The metal staples 5 prevent the pocket walls from separating, and thus are a bar to fire entering the pockets.

What is claimed is:

A document folder comprising two sections on opposite sides of a foldable center line, each section having a pocket whose confronting surfaces are composed of sheetings of closely fitting asbestos material, metallic staples securing together the side edges of said asbestos sheetings, said pockets having slit-like openings adjacent said center line, a covering for said asbestos material independently stitched to the edges of said pockets and covering said staples, and a narrow strip of said covering extending between said openings along the center line of said folder and having its edges extend at most for only a short distance within said pockets to conceal the asbestos when the folder is opened, whereby the staples hold said asbestos sheetings together to thereby prevent the separation of said asbestos sheetings and the consequent exposure of the contents to fire even while the covering and stitches are consumed by said fire.

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