

Aug. 30, 1938.

F. J. BINGHAM

2,128,689

MAIL POUCH

Filed April 23, 1937

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

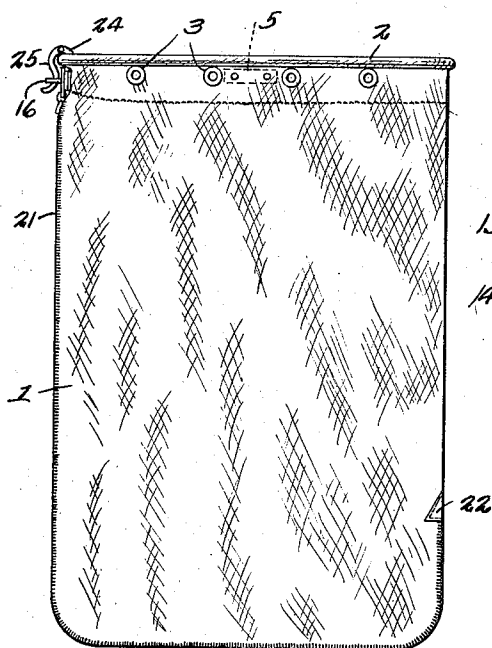


Fig. 1.

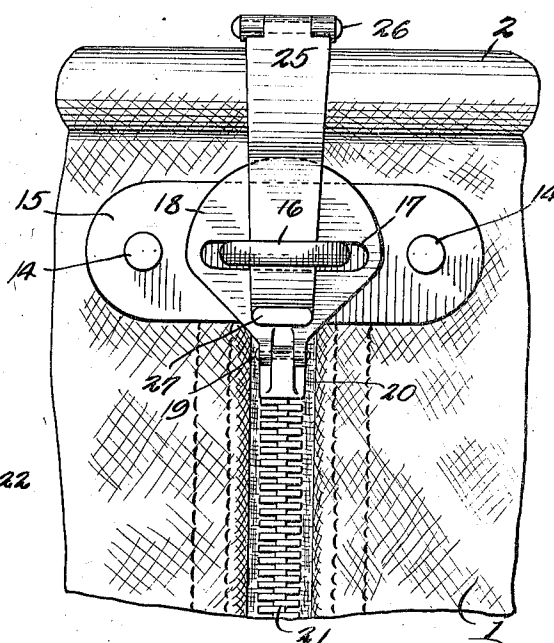


Fig. 3.

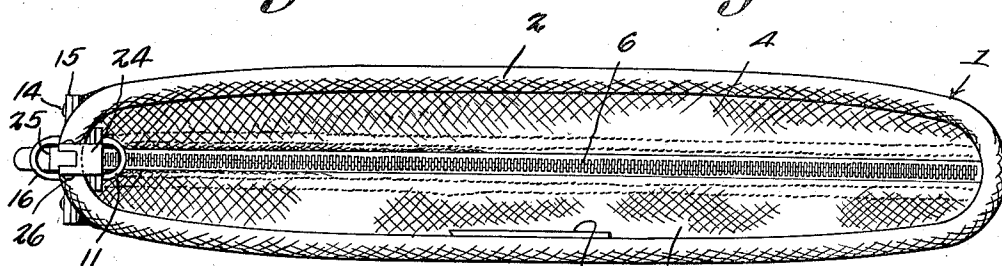


Fig. 2.

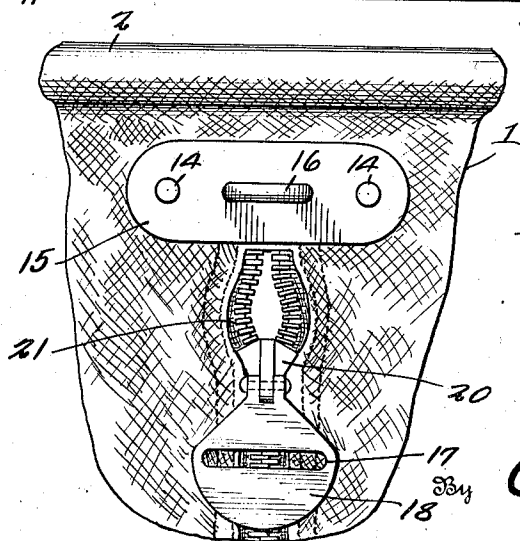


Fig. 4.

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

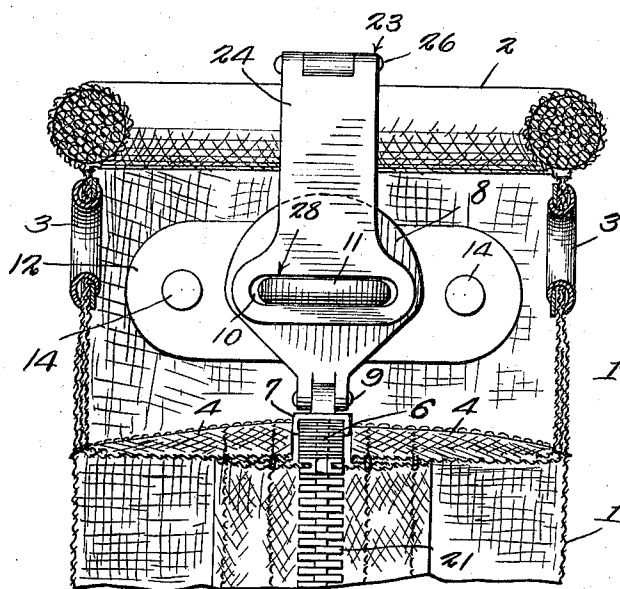


Fig. 5.

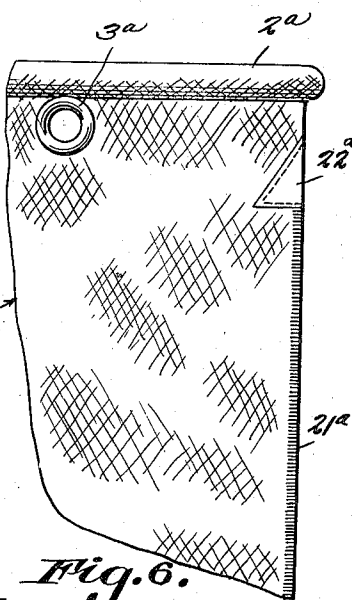


Fig. 6.

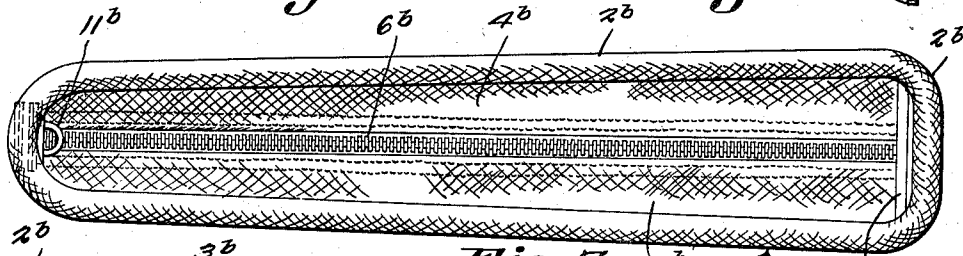


Fig. 7.

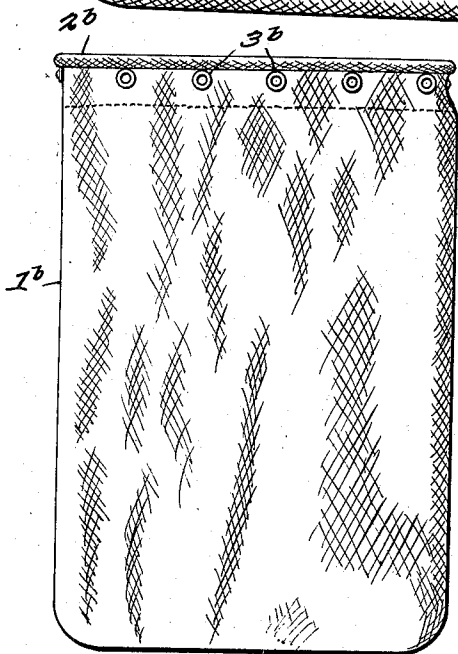


Fig. 8.

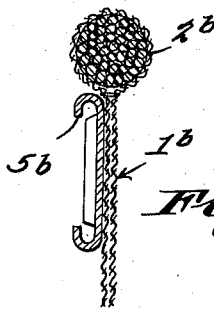


Fig. 9.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MAIL POUCH

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Application April 23, 1937, Serial No. 138,650

1 Claim. (Cl. 150—15)

One object of this invention is to provide a means whereby a container, such as a mail sack, may be opened quickly, to facilitate the dumping of the contents of the sack, it being possible to close the sack as easily as it is opened. Another object of the invention is to supply novel means whereby the sack may be locked or sealed in closed condition.

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a sack wherein the present improvements contemplated by this invention are embodied;

Fig. 2 is a top plan of the sack;

Fig. 3 is an elevation in which the sack is viewed edgewise, parts being broken away and the bridge being in place;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3, the bridge having been removed and parts being separated;

Fig. 5 is a transverse longitudinal section showing the inside of the sack and attendant parts;

Fig. 6 is a fragmental side elevation showing a modification;

Fig. 7 is a top plan showing another modification;

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of the sack depicted in Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a fragmental transverse section relating to the structure shown in Fig. 7.

The numeral 1 marks a flexible container, such as a mail sack. The sack 1 is provided at its mouth with a bead 2. Below the bead 2, the walls of the sack 1 have the usual grommets 3 for the reception of a draw-cord (not shown). The side walls of the sack 1 have inwardly projecting flaps 4 (Fig. 2) which are disposed a little way below the mouth of the sack (Fig. 5). A card holder 5 may be attached to one side wall of the sack (Fig. 2) above one of the flaps 4.

The flaps 4 are held together by a separable fastener 6 of the zipper type. The word "zipper" is believed to be a trade-mark name. The construction of such an article is common and well-known. The separable fastener 6 is controlled by a slide 7. A tongue 8 is hinged at 9 to the slide 7. The tongue 8 has an opening 10.

The opening 10 in the tongue 8 is adapted to receive a U-shaped keeper 11 on a foot plate 12, held by securing elements 14 on the inside of the sack, above the flaps 4.

The securing elements 14 hold a second foot plate 15 on the outside of the sack. The foot plate 15 has an outwardly projecting U-shaped keeper 16.

The numeral 17 marks an opening in a tongue 18 hinged at 19 to a slide 20 controlling a separable fastener 21 of the zipper type. As shown

in Fig. 1, the fastener 21 extends the full length of one longitudinal edge of the sack, across the bottom of the sack, and upwardly along the opposite longitudinal edge of the sack to a reinforcement 22 located near to the lower end of the sack. If the slide 20 is moved along the edge of the sack until the slide reaches the reinforcement 22, the sack will be opened along one longitudinal edge, across its bottom, and part-way up the opposite longitudinal edge of the sack. If it is desired that the sack be opened more completely than the construction of Fig. 1 makes possible, recourse may be had to the modification shown in Fig. 6.

In Fig. 6, parts hereinbefore described have been designated by numerals already used, with the suffix "a". In this form of the invention, the reinforcement 22a, and the adjacent end of the fastener 21a are disposed close to the bead 2a of the sack. The structure depicted in Fig. 6 makes it possible to open the sack throughout practically its entire length.

The numeral 23 marks a bridge adapted to straddle the upper edge of the sack 1 and preferably made of rigid metal. The bridge 23 includes an arm 24 and an arm 25. The upper ends of the arms 24 and 25 are joined hingedly together, as shown at 26. At its lower end, the arm 25 terminates in a hook 27. Near to its lower end, the arm 24 has an opening 28.

In practical operation, the mouth of the sack may be opened by moving the slide 7 of the fastener 6 to the right in Fig. 2. One longitudinal edge of the sack, the bottom of the sack, and part of the other longitudinal edge of the sack, or practically all of said other longitudinal edge of the sack, may be opened by moving the slide 20 around to the reinforcement 22 of Fig. 1 or to the reinforcement 22a of Fig. 6. In order to close the sack, the slides 7 and 20, of course, are moved toward the sack-corner until they assume the positions shown precisely in Fig. 3 and approximately in Fig. 4. The tongue 8 of the slide 7 is turned up to the position of Fig. 5, the keeper 11 extending through the opening 10 of the tongue. The tongue 18 is turned up from the position of Fig. 4 to the position of Fig. 3, and the keeper 16 extends through the opening 17 of the tongue. The hook 27 on the arm 25 of the bridge 23 is inserted through the keeper 16, the tongue 18 being disposed between the arm 25 and the foot plate 15. The tongue, then, cannot escape from the keeper 16, and the slide 20 cannot move downwardly and open the side and the bottom of the sack. The arm 24 of the bridge 23 is swung

down inside the sack, as shown in Fig. 5, until the keeper 11 is received in the opening 28 of the arm 24 of the bridge, the tongue 8 of the slide 7 then being located between the arm 24 and the foot plate 12. The tongue 8 cannot escape from the keeper 11, and the slide 7 cannot move to the right in Fig. 7 and open the mouth of the sack. It is understood that a lock, seal or the like may be inserted through the keeper 11 to prevent the arm 24 of the bridge 23 from becoming detached from the keeper. If the operator desires to have the lock or seal on the outside of the sack, the bridge 23 may be inverted or turned side for side, the hook 27 on the arm 25 of the keeper then being received in the keeper 11, and the opening 28 in the arm 24 of the bridge receiving the keeper 16.

If desired, the bridge 23 may be dispensed with, a lock or seal being placed in the keeper 16, and another lock or seal being placed in the keeper 11. The bridge 23, however, is an important improvement, and its use is strongly counselled.

In Figs. 7, 8 and 9, parts hereinbefore described have been designated by numerals already used, with the suffix "b". The modification consists in omitting the separable zipper fastener 21 of Fig. 1, the fastener 6b being retained. In this form

of the invention, the mouth of the sack, only, is opened and closed, and the bridge 23 need not be used.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

In a device of the class described, a container having a side opening and an end mouth, the container being provided at a distance below the mouth with inwardly projecting flaps, a separable fastener carried by the inner portions of the flaps and constituting means for holding the flaps together, a separable fastener constituting means for closing the side opening, a keeper secured to the inner surface of the container above the flaps and having an opening, a keeper secured to the outer surface of the container and having an opening, tongues pivoted to the slides and having openings receiving the keepers, and a bridge straddling the edge of the container at the mouth, the bridge comprising first and second arms, the first arm having an opening, the opening in the first arm being shaped to receive either keeper, and the second arm being insertible through either keeper, whereby the bridge may be turned end for end, to dispose the first arm either inside the container or outside of the container.

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