Feb. 18, 1958 A. D. COHN 2,823,723

CONTAINER

Filed Dec. 20, 1954 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

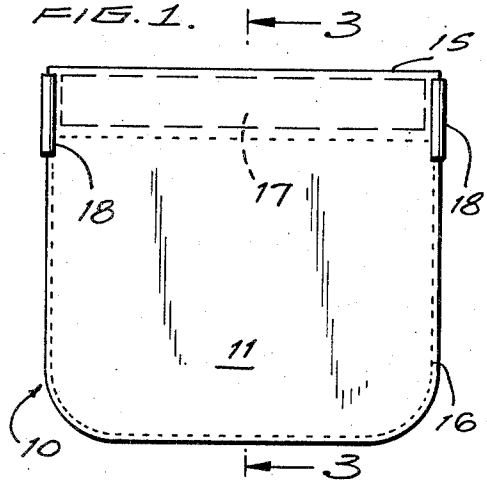
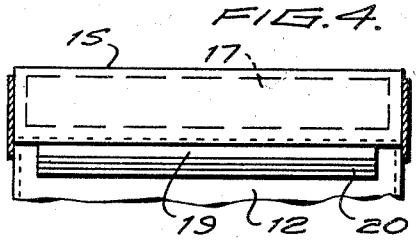


FIG. 4.



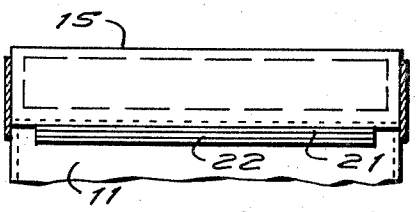
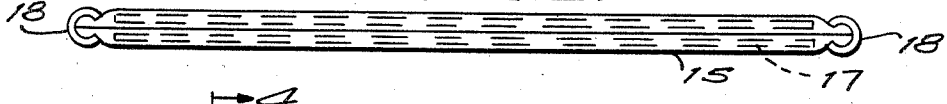


FIG. 5.

FIG. 2.



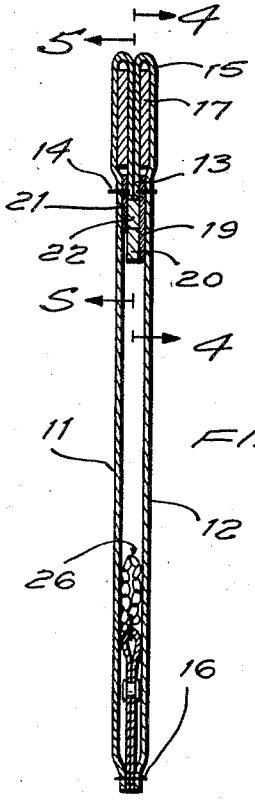


FIG. 3.

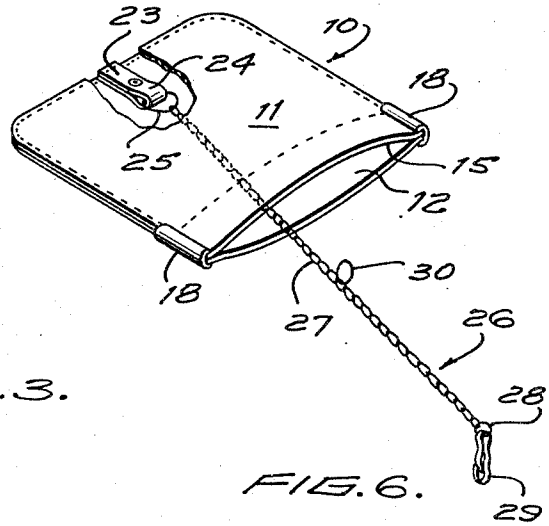


FIG. 6.

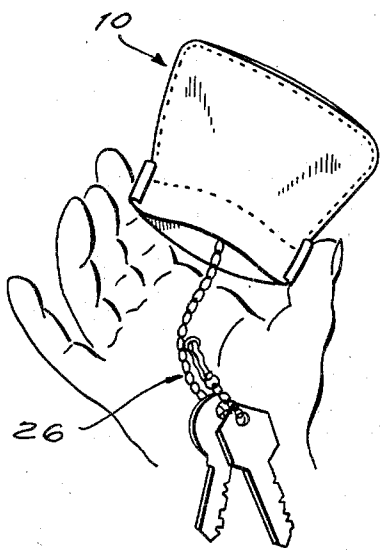
INVENTOR.
Arthur D. Cohn
BY
Michael S. Striker
agt.

Feb. 18, 1958 A. D. COHN 2,823,723

CONTAINER

Filed Dec. 20, 1954 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 7.



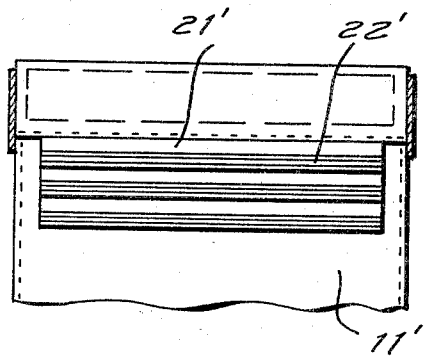


FIG. 9.

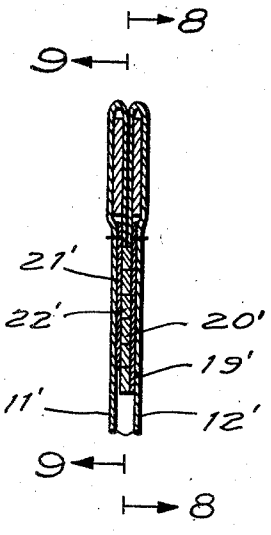
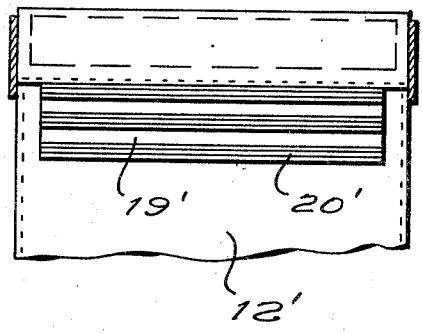


FIG. 10.

FIG. 8.



INVENTOR.
Arthur D. Cohn
BY
Michael S. Striker
agt.

United States Patent Office 2,823,723 Patented Feb. 18, 1958

2,823,723

CONTAINER

Arthur D. Cohn, New York, N. Y.

Application December 20, 1954, Serial No. 476,447

3 Claims. (Cl. 150—10)

The present invention relates to containers. More particularly, the present invention relates to containers adapted to hold loose articles such as keys, coins, and the like.

Known containers of this type have several defects. For example, in order to remove an article from the container it is necessary to use both hands so that if the user has bundles in one hand and his other hand is free, it is nevertheless necessary to put down the bundles in order to get at an article within the container. Also, known containers of this type are quite bulky and weighty so that they are not comfortably carried about in the pocket of an article of clothing, for example. Furthermore, known containers of this type include as a general rule several rigid metallic parts of substantial dimensions which undesirably increase the cost of manufacture as well as render the known containers bulky and weighty.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a container which may be operated with one hand to gain access to articles within the container.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a container which is extremely light and which maintains a substantially flat shape even when articles are within the container.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a container with a chain for holding keys or the like and capable of collapsing into an extremely small space so that the container is not undesirably bulged by the chain.

An additional object of the present invention is to provide a container which automatically closes itself whenever the container is released by the user.

With the above objects in view the present invention mainly consists of a container which includes a first flexible sheet material portion having an edge folded back upon and joined to itself to form a tubular portion extending along a part of the periphery of the sheet material portion. A second sheet material portion identical with the first is located next to the same with the tubular portions thereof overlying each other and with the folded back edges located between the sheet material portions. These sheet material portions are joined together at their outer peripheries along a path extending from one end of the tubular portions to the opposite end thereof. A pair of leaf springs are respectively located within and substantially fill the tubular portions, these leaf springs having a length slightly shorter than that of the tubular portions. A pair of clips are respectively connected to the ends of the tubular portions for closing these ends. A flexible chain capable of collapsing into an extremely small space is connected at one end to the container at the interior thereof, and this chain is formed at its free end portion into a loop which may support keys or the like.

The novel features which are considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in particular in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its construction and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be best understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a container constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the container of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Fig. 1 in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view of part of the container taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 3 in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view of part of the container taken along line 5—5 of Fig. 3 in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 6 is a partly broken away view of the container showing the manner in which a chain for holding keys or the like is connected to the container;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view illustrating how structure of the invention is used;

Figs. 8 and 9 are views corresponding to Figs. 4 and 5 of a different embodiment of the invention, Figs. 8 and 9 being taken along lines 8—8 and 9—9, respectively, of Fig. 10; and

Fig. 10 is a sectional elevational view illustrating the manner in which the structures of Figs. 8 and 9 cooperate.

Referring now to the drawings, Fig. 1 shows one of the sheet material portions 11 of the container 10 of the invention. This sheet material portion 11 is identical with a second sheet material portion 12 which is aligned with the sheet material portion 11 and located behind the same, as viewed in Fig. 1. As is evident from Fig. 1 these sheet material portions, which are flexible and made of any suitable plastic, fabric, leather, or the like, are substantially rectangular in shape. As is shown most clearly in Fig. 3, the edge 13 of each sheet material portion is folded back upon and joined to the sheet material portion by stitching or the like 14 to provide each of the sheet material portions 11 and 12 with a tubular portion 15 along its upper edge, as viewed in Figs. 1 and 3. The two sheet material portions 11 and 12 are joined to each other by stitching or the like 16 which extends along the peripheral edges of the portions 11 and 12 from one tubular portion end to the other end of the tubular portion. If desired this stitching 16 may extend across the ends of the tubular portions and close these ends, although it is also possible to leave these ends open.

In any event, before the ends of the tubular portions 15 are closed, a pair of leaf springs 17 are respectively located therein, these leaf springs 17 extending along almost the entire length of the tubular portions 15 and substantially filling the same, as is evident from Figs. 1 and 3. A pair of clips 18 are located at the ends of the tubular portion. As is evident from Figs. 1 and 2, each clip 18 is in the form of a tube which is split along its entire length and which has the edges defining the split in clamping engagement with the sheet material portions 11 and 12 at the ends of the tubular portions 15. The advantage of the clips 18 is not only that they provide an exceedingly simple means for holding the ends of the tubular portions together and as is most clearly evident from Fig. 2 when the clips 18 are pushed toward each other they will transmit the force of the fingers acting on clips 18 directly to the leaf springs 17 to cause these leaf springs to bulge outwardly away from each other and thus give access to the interior of the container 10. When the user releases pressure on the clips 18 the springs 17 automatically snap the tubular portions 15 back into engagement with each other in the position shown most clearly in Fig. 2.

Although the maintenance of tubular portions 15 in engagement with each other by leaf springs 17 closes the container 10, it might nevertheless be possible for some very

thin articles to slip out of the container, and in order to avoid this undesirable result, the sheet material portion **12** is provided next to the tubular portion **15** thereof with a flexible fabric strip **19** which is fastened to the sheet material portion **12** and which has thereon a raised elongated portion **20** made for example of stitching of a rubberized thread or the like. This structure is shown most clearly in Fig. 4. Fig. 5 shows how the sheet material portion **11** is similarly provided next to the tubular portion **15** thereof with a fabric strip **21** joined by stitching or the like to the sheet material portion **11** and having thereon a raised portion **22** made of stitches of rubberized thread, for example. As is evident from Fig. 3, the raised portions **20** and **22** are located at the faces of the strips **19** and **21** which confront each other. The tubular portions **15** are substantially identical and the raised portion **22** is located nearer to the tubular portion **15** of the sheet material portion **12** than the raised portion **20**. As a result, when the container is closed, the raised portion **22** will become located between raised portion **20** and tubular portions **15** so as to securely close the container and prevent relatively thin loose articles therein from falling out of the container without the knowledge of the user.

A particular feature of the invention resides in the manner in which the container **10** is adapted to have keys connected thereto to be located therein. As is shown most clearly in Fig. 6, a strip **23** of any flexible material is folded upon itself to form a loop **24**, and the free ends of the strip **23** are stitched between the sheet material portions **11** and **12** at the edges thereof which are distant from the tubular portions **15**. A ring **25** is located within the container **10**, and the loop **24** passes through this ring **25** so that in this way the strip **23** serves to fix the ring **25** to the interior of the container **10**. A chain **26** is fixed to and extends from the ring **25**. This chain **26** is made up of a plurality of identical links **27** which are made of a fairly fine wire. As a result, it is possible for the chain **26** to collapse into an extremely small space as indicated roughly in Fig. 3. The end of the chain **26** distant from ring **25** is connected to a ring **28**, and this ring **28** carries a resilient hook member **29**. Furthermore a ring **30** is connected to one of the links **27** at a part of the chain between its ends, so that when the hook **29** engages the ring **30** a loop is formed. This loop may extend through the holes of keys or the like so that in this way such keys are connected to the chain **26**. When the keys together with the key chain are located within the container **10**, the loop permits the keys to lie flat between the sides of the container and since the chain itself is extremely flexible and made up of small links which are collapsible into a small space, it is possible to maintain the substantially flat shape of the container.

It is evident that with the above described arrangement the chain does not provide a bulky weighty mass and it is collapsible into an extremely small space so that even with keys connected to the chain the entire container with the keys and chain therein will still be substantially flat. Furthermore it will be noted that it is possible for the user to get at the keys within the container with only one hand. To do this it is only necessary to hold the mouth of the container formed by tubular portions **15** in a downwardly directed position and to press the clips **18** toward each other in the manner illustrated in Fig. 7 so as to open the mouth of the container, whereupon the chain and keys will fall from the interior of the container by gravity, the strip **23** maintaining connection between the chain **26** and container **10**.

Figs. 8–10 show a different embodiment of the invention according to which fabric strips **21'** and **19'** are provided with a plurality of raised portions **22'** and **20'** which are similar to the raised portions **22** and **20** and i. e. are made of flexible material, for example of stitching of rubberized thread or the like. As is evident from Fig. 10, when the sheet material portions **11'** and **12'** of Figs. 8 and 9 are assembled to make the finished container, as shown in Fig. 10, the flexible raised portions **20'** become located between the raised portions **22'** to interlock as shown and the raised portions or interlocking members provide thereby a very effective seal for the container. If coins are kept in the container, then the space between the interlocking raised portions is kept to a distance smaller than the diameter of the smallest coin.

It will be noted that with the structure of the invention described above it is unnecessary to place the keys on steel hooks which are difficult to open. Instead with the structure of the invention it is only necessary to separate hook **29** from ring **30**, which is adjacent the center of the chain **26**, slip the hook **29**, ring **28**, and chain **26** through the keys and then connect hook **29** again with ring **30**, the arrangement being that shown in Fig. 7. With this arrangement not only is it possible to have access to keys simply by pressing the clips **18** toward each other, but in addition the keys are on a flexible member and are therefore very easy to grasp and manipulate with the full hand.

It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or two or more together, may also find a useful application in other types of containers differing from the types described above.

While the invention has been illustrated and described as embodied in key containers, it is not intended to be limited to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may be made without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can by applying current knowledge readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention and, therefore, such adaptations should and are intended to be comprehended within the meaning and range of equivalence of the following claims.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A container comprising, in combination, a first flexible sheet material portion having an edge folded back upon and joined to itself to form a tubular portion extending along a part of the periphery of said sheet material portion; a second sheet material portion identical with said first sheet material portion located next to the same with said tubular portions overlying each other and with said edges located between said sheet material portions, said sheet material portions being joined together at their outer peripheries along a path extending from one end of said tubular portions to the opposite end thereof; a pair of leaf springs respectively located within and substantially filling said tubular portions, said leaf springs having a length slightly less than that of said tubular portions; a pair of clips respectively connected to and closing the ends of said tubular portions; a pair of flexible strips located between and respectively fixed to said sheet material portions next to said tubular portions thereof; a plurality of flexible interlocking members respectively fixed to said pair of strips, the interlocking members fixed to one of said strips projecting toward the interlocking members fixed to the other of said strips so that said interlocking members close the interior of the container when said tubular portions are located next to each other along their entire length.

2. A container, comprising, in combination, a first flexible sheet material portion having an edge folded back upon and joined to itself to form a tubular portion extending along a part of the periphery of said sheet material portion; a second sheet material portion identical with said first sheet material portion located next to the same with said tubular portions overlying each other and with said edges located between said sheet material portions, said sheet material portions being joined together at their outer peripheries along a path extending from one end of said tubular portions to the opposite end thereof; a pair

of leaf springs respectively located within and substantially filling said tubular portions, said leaf springs having a length slightly less than that of said tubular portions; a pair of clips respectively connected to and closing the ends of said tubular portions; a pair of flexible strips located between and respectively fixed to said sheet material portions next to said tubular portions thereof; a plurality of substantially parallel interlocking members fixed to each strip and extending along the face of said strip which is directed toward the other strip, the interlocking members on one of said strips being located at different distances from the tubular portion of said one strip than the interlocking members on the other of said strips and the interlocking members of one strip being located between and alternating with the interlocking members of the other strip when the container is closed.

3. A container comprising, in combination, a first flexible sheet material portion having an edge folded back upon and joined to itself to form a tubular portion extending along a part of the periphery of said sheet material portion; a second sheet material portion identical with said first sheet material portion located next to the same with said tubular portions overlying each other and with said edges located between said sheet material portions, said sheet material portions being joined together at their outer peripheries along a path extending from one end of said tubular portion to the opposite end thereof;

a pair of leaf springs respectively located within and substantially filling said tubular portions, said leaf springs having a length slightly less than that of said tubular portions; a pair of clips respectively connected to and closing the ends of said tubular portions; a pair of flexible strips located between and respectively fixed to said sheet material portions next to said tubular portions thereof; a plurality of flexible interlocking members respectively fixed to said strips and distributed at the faces thereof, said interlocking members being respectively directed toward each other so that said interlocking members close the interior of the container when said tubular portions are located next to each other.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,658,294	Lewis	Feb. 7, 1928
2,041,190	Kuhlke	May 19, 1936
2,232,888	Schimelmitz	Feb. 25, 1941
2,514,750	Dobbs et al.	July 11, 1950
2,629,251	Schwalberg	Feb. 24, 1953
2,646,096	Knee et al.	July 21, 1953
2,666,466	Sharat	Jan. 19, 1954

FOREIGN PATENTS

10,310	Great Britain	May 1, 1912