Aug. 28, 1951 V. N. WADLAND 2,565,895

APPARATUS FOR ELECTRICALLY LIGHTING THE INTERIOR OF HANDBAGS

Filed July 7, 1947

FIG. 1

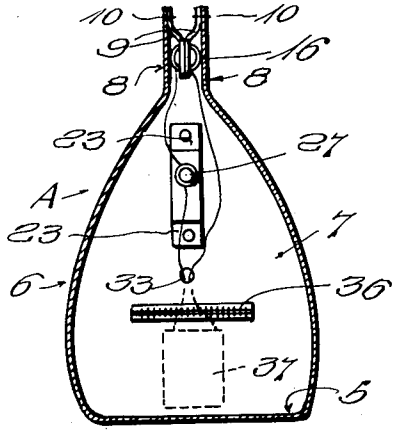


FIG. 2

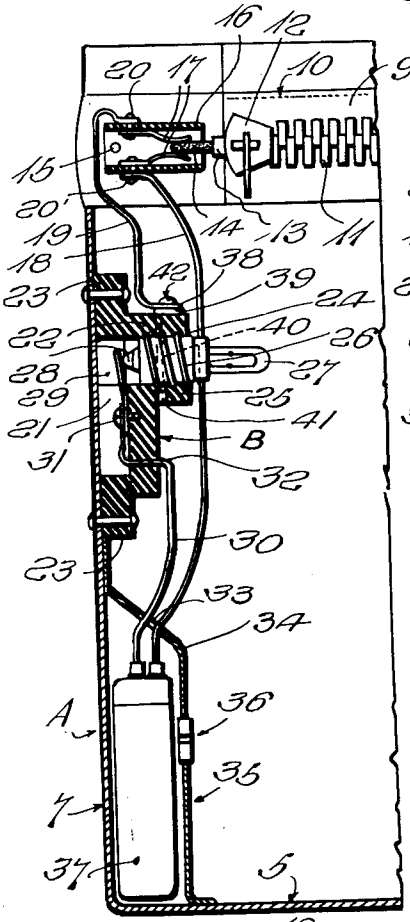


FIG. 3

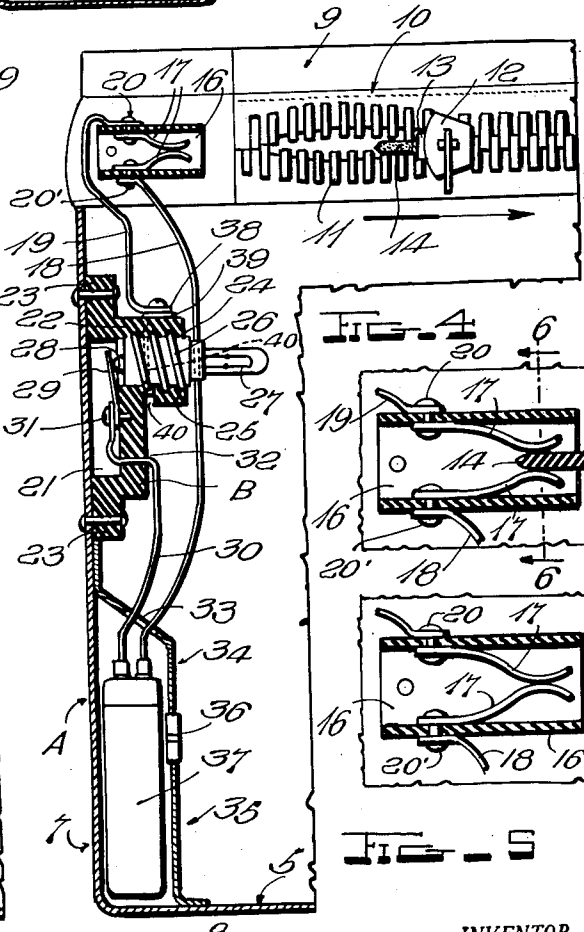


FIG. 4

FIG. 5

FIG. 7

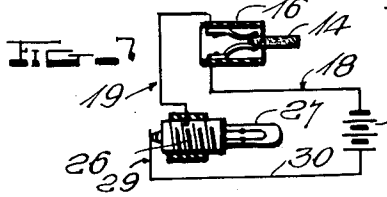
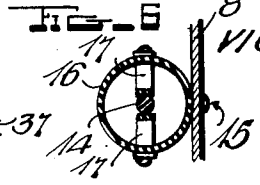


FIG. 6



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Patented Aug. 28, 1951 2,565,895

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,565,895

APPARATUS FOR ELECTRICALLY LIGHTING THE INTERIOR OF HANDBAGS

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Application July 7, 1947, Serial No. 759,376

5 Claims. (Cl. 240—6.45)

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Generically this invention relates to ladies' handbags and the like, but it is more particularly directed to an illuminating device adapted to be mounted within the handbag and adapted to illuminate the interior thereof upon the initial opening movement of the handbag closing means.

One of the principal objects of this invention is the provision of an illuminating means for handbags, having a zipper or slide-fastener type closure adapted to light the interior instantly upon the initial movement of the slide-fastener in bag opening direction.

Another important object of this invention is the provision of an improved electrical illuminating means for lighting the interior of a lady's handbag or the like having a slide-fastener type closure and means in connection with the slide fastener member for opening the light circuit and turning off the light upon movement of said member to bag closing position, and operable to close said circuit to energize said light and illuminate the interior of the handbag instantly upon movement of said fastener in bag opening direction.

Another important object of this invention is the provision of an electrical illuminating device of this character for handbags and the like, comprising a compact electrical unit including a lightweight mounting member constructed of a transparent or other plastic material, admitting of being mounted within the bag so as not to interfere with the filling or removal of its contents, and adapted to be manufactured with the handbags or readily attachable as a unit to those already in use.

With these and other objects in view, which will become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the construction, combination, and arrangements of parts, hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which the like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several figures, of which:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view through a zipper bag provided with my improved interior lighting.

Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view on an enlarged scale showing the switch member, as a part of the zipper actuating head, in the position it assumes when the switch is open and the light is off.

Fig. 3 is a similar view to Fig. 2, but showing the switch closed and the switch actuating member withdrawn from the switch members or tongs, the bag being now partially open and the light on.

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Fig. 4 is a detailed sectional view on an enlarged scale of the switch member, the tongs of the switch member being separated by the zipper head.

Fig. 5 is a similar view to Fig. 4, but showing the switch tongs closed.

Fig. 6 is a transverse vertical section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 7 is a schematic wiring diagram showing the principles involved for lighting the interior of the bag upon opening the same.

The devices of this character with which I am familiar have proven deficient in different respects, some of which are: illuminating devices of complex construction, bulky, difficult to mount within the handbag, and when mounted adapted to interfere with and be damaged by the placing in and removal of articles from the handbag, such electrical illuminating devices adapted to be lighted upon the complete opening of the handbag, and, therefore, it was to overcome the above disadvantages by providing an illuminating device for a zipper or slide-fastener type of handbag comprising a mounting for the light source and contact and electrical conductors, binding posts and the like, of minimum size and constructed of a plastic material, said device preferably adapted to be mounted on and secured to the end wall of the bag, circuit control means associated with said slide-fastener, and means carried by the slide-fastener adapted to engage said control means upon movement of said fastener to complete bag closing position to open said circuit and cut off the light, and, upon the initial movement of said fastener in bag opening direction, to close said circuit and instantly illuminate the interior of the bag, that I designed the illuminating device forming the subject matter of this invention.

In the illustrated embodiment characterizing this invention there is shown a conventional type of lady's handbag or the like A including a bottom 5, corresponding flexible side members 6 and ends 7 (one of which is shown), said side members being formed adjacent their upper edges with parallel portions 8. A pair of tapes 9 are secured along their upper edges to the upper edges of portions 8 by stitching 10, the lower edges of said tapes 9 are provided with a pair of strips of hookless fasteners 11, and a slide fastener or operator head 12 is provided for said fastener strips 11. Suitably mounted on the free end of said head is a socket or clasp member 13 in which is suitably secured a dielectric stud member 14 of fibrous or other non-conducting material. Secured to one of the portions 8 at the end thereof by a rivet or other suitable fas-

tening means 15 is a tubular element 16, constructed of plastic or other non-conducting material, and mounted interior thereof is a pair of spring contact or switch members 17, said members being connected to the ends of electrical conductors 18 and 19 by metallic binding posts or rivets 20 and 20', respectively.

A plastic mounting member B is formed with a cutout portion 21, a thickened portion 22, and oppositely extending flange portions 23, said thickened portion 22 is formed with a right angular opening 24 communicating with opening 21 and is formed with internal threads 25 adapted to threadedly receive the metallic threaded portion 26 of a light bulb 27. Said member 26 is formed with a tip contact 28 adapted to engage the free end of a wire or plate contact member 29, the opposite end of said member being connected to the end of an electrical conductor 30 by a binding post or screw 31, said conductor extending through mounting B as at 32 and through opening 33 in wall 34 of battery pocket 35, said pocket being formed on end wall 7 and closed by a zipper 36, said conductor 30 being connected to a source of electrical energy or battery 37 contained and concealed in said pocket. In the present instance, one end of said wall 34 is suitably secured to end 7 and the other to bottom 5. The conductor 18 also extends through opening 33 and is connected to battery 37. The end 38 of conductor 19 is adapted to engage the end 39 of a contact wire or the like 40 which is adapted to extend through slot 41, formed in the mounting portion 22, and in contact engagement with the metallic member 26 of bulb 27. Said end 39, if desired, may be flattened and is adapted to seat on said portion 22 of mounting B and to engage the end 38 of conductor 19, said parts being secured by a binding post 42.

The electrical circuit is completed from battery 37 through conductor 30, binding post 31, contacts 29 and 28, metallic portion 26, contact 40, conductor 19, binding post 20, contact or switch members 17, binding post 20' and conductor 18, back to battery 37, when said switch members 17 are in circuit closing position (Fig. 3). When the slide fastener or operator 12 is retracted with respect to said switch members 17, and as said member 12 is being moved in the direction of the arrow in bag opening direction, as shown in Fig. 3, the interior of the bag will be illuminated.

As will be apparent upon the initial movement of operator 12 and switch member 14 from the circuit opening position, as shown in Fig. 2, said switch members 17 will engage each other closing the circuit, as shown in Fig. 3, instantly lighting light 27 and illuminating the interior of the bag at the beginning of the bag opening operation, said bag remaining illuminated during the zipper-opening movement and during its closing movement until said head 12 is again returned to complete bag closing position and member 14 simultaneously separates said switch members, as shown in Fig. 2, opening the circuit and cutting off the light.

Owing to the construction of the zipper type handbag and its flexible closure means, certain articles which are most frequently used, such as small change purses, street car passes, door keys, powder puffs, and the like, may be placed in the closure opening end of the bag so that they may be easily reached and located promptly without the necessity of moving the opening means to complete open position, and, therefore, it is especially important that the illuminating device be positioned at the right hand and closure opening end of the bag, and that the interior of the bag be illuminated instantly upon the beginning of the opening movement, so that such articles as above mentioned can be reached without necessitating complete opening of the bag. This also tends to eliminate the spilling of articles and contents of the bag in attempting to find the desired article under crowded conditions, such as street cars, busses, outdoor assemblages, and in other places where there are poor lighting effects.

Further, it will be apparent that I have provided a single mounting for the light source and switch instrumentalities constructed of Lucite or other like plastic substance, the entire device weighing but a few ounces, and the arrangement of the mounting being such that the light source, contacts and connections, are readily installable in the mounting and adapted to be designed as a part of the bag at the time of its manufacture, or mounted as an attachment to a bag already manufactured, comprising few parts, easily assembled and installable in a manner such as not to interfere with or be damaged by the placing of articles within the handbag or removing them therefrom, said device being manufacturable at a negligible cost, and efficient for the purposes intended.

Although in practice it has been found that the form of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings and referred to in the above description as the preferred embodiment is the most efficient and practical, yet realizing that conditions concurrent with the adoption of the invention will necessarily vary, it is well to emphasize that various minor changes in details of construction, proportion and arrangement of parts, may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from or sacrificing any of the principles of the invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire protected by Letters Patent is as set forth in the following claims:

1. A handbag comprising end and side walls, the side walls connected at their upper edges by a fastener comprising a series of interlocking elements on the respective sidewalls and interlocked and released by a longitudinally extending slide, said slide being formed with an extension of insulating material projecting in alignment with said slide and interlocking elements, a switch mechanism including a pair of normally contacting resilient contact members terminating in free end portions oppositely disposed relatively to the insulating extension of the slide for separation one from another responsively to entry of the slide extension between said free end portions of the resilient contact members as the slide attains its terminal position completely interlocking said interlocking elements, a lamp mounting block of insulating material attached to one of the end walls of said bag and formed with a seat adapted to receive the threaded plug of an incandescent lamp, contacts carried by said block and in engagement with the contact elements of said plug, a source of electrical energy, and an electrical circuit including said source of electrical energy, the contacts of said lamp mounting, and the normally contacting resilient elements, whereby as the slide member is operated to release the interlocked members said circuit will be instantly closed, and the interior of the handbag illuminated.

2. A handbag comprising end and side walls, the sidewalls connected at their upper edges by a fastener comprising a series of interlocking elements on the respective sidewalls and interlocked and released by a longitudinally extending slide, said slide being formed with an extension of insulating material projecting in alignment with said slide and interlocking elements, a switch mechanism including a tubular member and a pair of resilient contact members oppositely positioned within said member, the said resilient members having oppositely disposed free ends normally in contact with one another, the insulating extension of the slide entering between the free ends of the resilient contact members and effecting separation of the said free ends of the contact members when the slide attains its terminal position completely interlocking said interlocking fastener elements, a lamp mounting block of insulating material attached to one of the end walls of said bag, and formed with a seat adapted to receive the threaded plug of an incandescent lamp, contacts carried by said block and in engagement with the contact elements of said plug, a source of electrical energy, and an electrical circuit including said source of electrical energy, the contacts of said lamp mounting and the normally contacting resilient members, whereby as the slide member is operated to release the interlocked members said circuit will be instantly closed and the interior of the handbag illuminated.

3. A handbag comprising end and side walls, the side walls connected at their upper edges by a fastener comprising a series of interlocking elements on the respective sidewalls and interlocked and released by a longitudinally extending slide, said slide being formed with an extension of insulating material projecting in alignment with said slide and interlocking elements, a switch mechanism including an insulating housing member, a pair of normally closed contacts oppositely positioned within said housing and having free end portions normally in contact with each other and receiving therebetween the insulating extension of the slide when the slide attains its terminal position completely interlocking said interlocking fastener elements, the reception of the insulating slide extension between the free ends of the said contacts disengaging the contacts from one another, a lamp mounting block of insulating material attached to one of said end walls, said block being bored and formed to receive the threaded plug of an incandescent lamp, contacts carried by said block and in engagement with the contact elements of said plug, a source of electrical energy, and an electrical circuit including said source of electrical energy, the contacts of said lamp mounting, and the normally contacting resilient members, whereby as the slide member is operated to release the interlocked members said circuit will be instantly closed and the interior of the handbag illuminated.

4. A handbag comprising end and side walls, the side walls connected at their upper edges by a fastener comprising a series of interlocking elements on the respective sidewalls and interlocked and released by a longitudinally extending slide, said slide being formed with an extension of insulating material projecting in alignment with said slide and interlocking elements, a switch mechanism including a housing of insulating material attached to the upper edge of one of said side walls, a pair of contact members

mounted in the housing and having normally contacting resilient free end portions receiving therebetween the said insulating slide extension and being separated by the said insulating extension of the slide when the slide attains its terminal position completely interlocking said interlocking elements, a lamp mounting block of insulating material attached to one of the end walls of said bag, said block being transversely bored and formed to receive the threaded plug of an incandescent lamp, contacts carried by said block and in engagement with the contact elements of said plug, a source of electrical energy, and an electrical circuit including said source of electrical energy, the contacts of said lamp mounting, and the normally contacting resilient members, whereby as the slide member is operated to release the interlocked members said circuit will be instantly closed and the interior of the handbag illuminated.

5. A handbag comprising end and side walls, the sidewalls connected at their upper edges by a fastener comprising a series of interlocking elements on the respective sidewalls and interlocked and released by a longitudinally extending slide, said slide being formed with an extension of insulating material projecting in alignment with said slide and interlocking elements, a switch mechanism including a housing of insulating material attached to the upper edge of one of said side walls, a pair of normally contacting resilient electrical contact members mounted in said housing and separably receiving between them the said insulating slide extension of the slide when the said slide attains its terminal position completely interlocking said interlocking fastener elements, a lamp mounting block of insulating material attached to one of the end walls of said bag, said block being transversely bored and formed to receive the threaded plug of an incandescent lamp, said plug having a center contact, a contact element carried by said block and adapted to engage said center contact when said plug is seated, said block being formed with a slot intersecting said transverse bore, a contact member mounted in said slot in engagement with said plug and connected to said block, a source of electrical energy, and an electrical circuit including said source of electrical energy, the contacts of said lamp mounting and the normally contacting resilient elements, whereby as the slide member is operated in bag opening direction to release the interlocking members, said circuit will be instantly closed illuminating the interior of the handbag, and as said slide member moving in bag closing direction attains its terminal position, its extension simultaneously separates said resilient members opening said circuit and extinguishing said lamp.

VICTOR N. WADLAND.

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