Nov. 12, 1940. C. A. MOORE 2,221,648

POCKET PROTECTOR

Filed Oct. 12, 1938

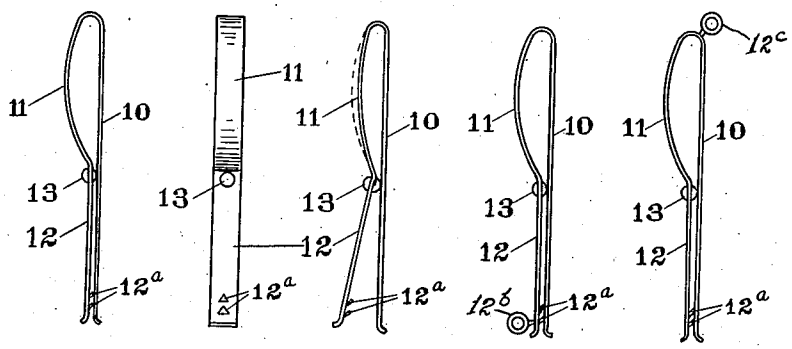


Fig.1. Fig.2. Fig.3. Fig.4. Fig.5.

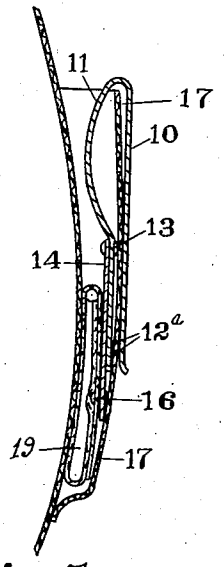


Fig.7.

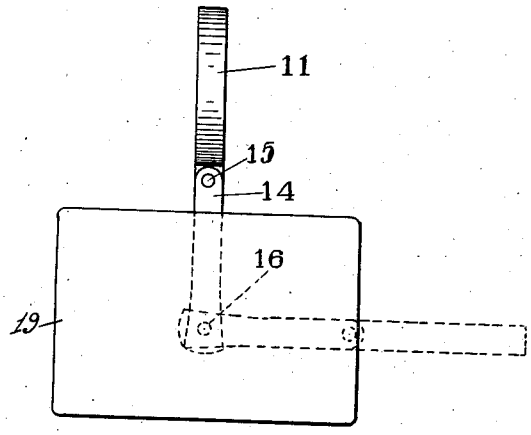


Fig.6.

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POCKET PROTECTOR

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—255)

This invention relates to devices for making more difficult the business of pocket picking, especially of pocket books containing funds and valuable ware or documents.

The art of pocket picking has been cultivated to such a high degree of perfection that it is seldom the victim realizes he is being deprived of his property. Most frequently, the operation takes place in a crowd, and is accompanied by some jostling or other distracting excitement and while the mind of the victim is momentarily diverted.

The object of the present invention is to provide improved means whereby the article, as a pocket book, watch or other valuable is anchored to a portion of the pocket so that more than merely "lifting" the article is required. In other words, the anchor must be first detached from the clothing and this requires a special movement of the hand within the pocket and is adapted or likely to attract the attention of the victim before the consummation of the intended theft.

The invention is embodied in the construction, preferred examples of which are herein shown and described and finally pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is an edge view of the device.

Fig. 2 is a view looking at the left hand face of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view illustrating how the anchoring end is opened or separated from the base to permit application of the device to a portion of the pocket.

Fig. 4 is an edge view of the device showing an eyelet applied thereto for anchoring a watch chain.

Fig. 5 is an edge view showing an eyelet applied thereto for anchoring a key ring or key chain.

Fig. 6 illustrates an elevational view showing the device as applied to a pocket book.

Fig. 7 illustrates in vertical section the combination as shown in Fig. 6 as applied to or anchored in a pocket.

The device of my invention as shown is best mainly constructed of a flat strip of spring steel of suitable thickness and length bent near its middle to form at one side a straight base portion 10, and at the opposite side a curved resilient portion 11 for about half the length of said base portion, said curved resilient portion having an extension 12 therefrom provided near its end with a prong or prongs 12a struck from the strip to point toward the base portion 10.

The spring of the metal at the junction of the arms tends to hold the pronged one toward the base 10. Secured to the said pronged arm at the junction of the straight and curved portions 11 and 12 is a hard metallic bearing piece 13 conveniently in the form of a rivet having rounded ends, the round end at the side next the base arm constituting a sliding bearing when appropriate pressure is applied to curved portion 11. In operation, suitable pressure with a thumb of the hand is applied to said portion 11 thereby causing the pronged extension to move or kick outward as depicted in Fig. 3 and provide a space between the arms necessary to apply the device to the outer wall 17 or fabric of the pocket and when such pressure is removed, the portion 12 bearing the prongs is drawn or tends to be drawn into substantial parallel relation to the base and therefore cause the prongs to engage with and anchor the device to the outer wall or fabric 17 of the pocket as illustrated in Fig. 7.

In applying the device to a pocket book 19 I prefer to use a metallic link 14 (see Fig. 6) pivotally connected with the non-flexing portion 12 by means of a rivet at 15 and to a wall or fly of the pocket book by means of a rivet at 16. This linking means 14 can be dispensed with and the pocket book directly connected with the said portion 12 with a pivotal connection, if desired, so as to permit in either case the swinging of the device to a different position with respect to the pocket as illustrated by broken lines in Fig. 6. This construction as shown in Fig. 6 permits the pocket book to be carried in the pocket crosswise or depth-wise as may be desired.

The forms of the parts can be changed without departing from the gist of the invention as claimed.

What I claim is:

Means for obstructing the unlawful removal of an article from the pocket of a garment comprising, in combination, a clip member of spring metal bent to form an arm or base portion and an arm extending generally parallel thereto, said last named arm having an outwardly curved portion constituting a pressure portion extending to substantially the middle of said arm and a non-flexing portion therebeyond having at its free end a spur extending toward said base arm and means for connecting the article to be guarded to the outer side of said non-flexing portion whereby, when the article bearing the clip is inserted in the garment pocket with the clip straddling the free or outer wall of the pocket and said spur engages the inner side of the outer wall of the pocket, the insertion of a hand into the pocket and pressure by the fingers thereof on said pressure portion of the clip is required to release and permit the removal of the article.

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