Dec. 27, 1966 B. B. BRENNAN 3,294,299

SAFETY DEVICES

Filed Sept. 29, 1965

Fig. 1

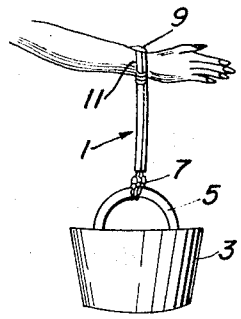


Fig. 2

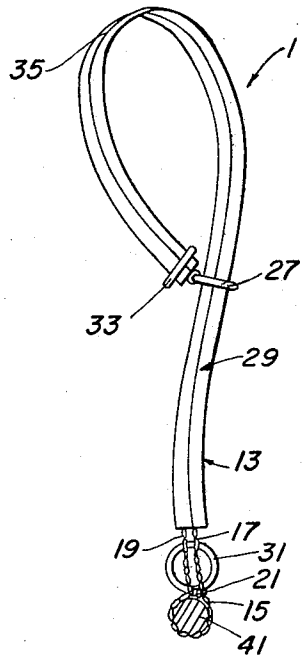


Fig. 3

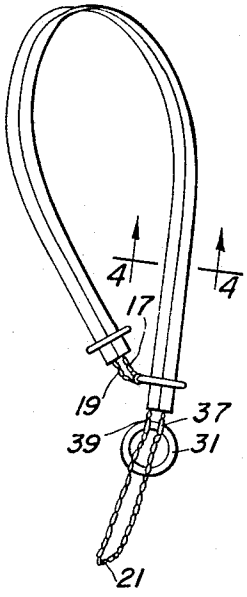


Fig. 4

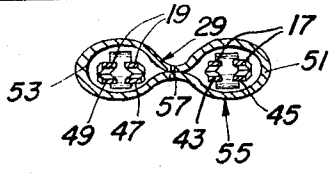


Fig. 5

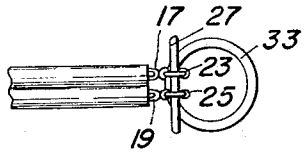
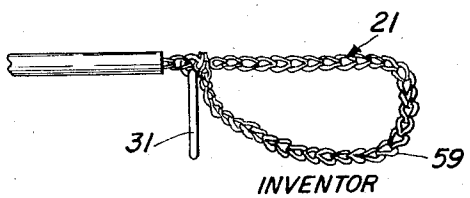


Fig. 6



INVENTOR

BERNICE B. BRENNAN

BY

Ronald Flugel

Atty

United States Patent Office 3,294,299 Patented Dec. 27, 1966

3,294,299

SAFETY DEVICES

Bernice B. Brennan, 1412 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, Ill. 60091

Filed Sept. 29, 1965, Ser. No. 491,202
4 Claims. (Cl. 224—28)

The present invention relates generally to safety devices and more particularly to a leather bound, double-strand chain strap to be used in the prevention of loss by theft, or otherwise, of hand-carried objects such as ladies' handbags or briefcases.

One end of the device is a chain loop which slips through any opening in the hand-carried object which has the requisite support strength. The opposite end of the device passes through this loop to secure the article to the strap. This opposite end is in the form of an adjustable loop which is worn over the wrist, bracelet fashion. The adjustable loop provides a strong, secure connection to the wrist of the person carrying the hand-carried object without causing any discomfort to the wearer.

This device is useful in preventing purse snatching and accidental loss of a purse. If a thief should grab the purse, the adjustable loop would tighten on the wearer's wrist to prevent loss of the purse. At the same time, if a woman wearing the attachment on her handbag should be the victum of an outright hold-up where life is endangered, the safety strap is easily disengaged so that the purse can be given up.

It is often convenient for women shoppers to set their handbags down on store counters where they are shopping in order to examine merchandise or to try on hats. Using the strap device described they may do so without fear of forgetting their purses or having them taken, and yet they will have considerable freedom of movement.

Similarly, a businessman transporting important and irreplaceable documents can be sure, by wearing the strap attached to his briefcase, that the briefcase will not be inadvertently left behind or stolen. Expensive articles purchased and being personally transported may also be secured in this manner. The uses for the device are innumerable for habitually forgetful people, as well as for holiday shoppers burdened with packages and concerned for the safety of their purses.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a safety device for use by a person with a hand-carried object.

Another object of this invention is to provide a flexible strap for a woman to wear with her handbag to prevent purse snatching.

A further object of this invention is to provide a safety device for use by a woman with a handbag to prevent the possibility of accidentally leaving the handbag while shopping or doing some other activity.

Yet a further object of this invention is to provide a safety device which is easily attached to a woman's handbag and which may be connected to a woman's wrist at will to prevent loss of the handbag.

These and other objects, advantages, and features of the present invention will hereinafter appear, and, for purposes of illustration, but not of limitation, an exemplary embodiment of the present invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention in a particular use;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention shown connected to the object to be carried;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view similar to that of FIGURE 2 but showing the device of this invention in an unattached condition;

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of a first end of the device of this invention;

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of a second end of the device of the present invention shown in a fastening position.

With respect to the drawing, a safety device **1** is shown in use with a woman's handbag **3** in FIGURE 1. The safety device **1** is connected to the handle **5** of the handbag **3** at point **7** in such a manner that the safety device may be disconnected only when the other end of the safety device is free. At the other end of safety device **1**, a loop **9** is provided for attaching safety device **1** to the wrist **11** of a woman. While this illustration demonstrates the use of the safety device with respect to a woman's handbag, it should be realized that the safety device **1** may be used equally well in other environments, such as with a man's briefcase or attaché case.

A more complete view of the safety device **1** is shown in FIGURE 2. In this figure the safety device **1** is seen as a flexible strap **13** comprising a single length of chain link metal **15**, which is folded back upon itself to form two strands **17** and **19**. The folding of the chain link metal produces a loop portion **21** at one end of the flexible strap **13**. As better seen in FIGURE 5 the free ends **23** and **25** of strands **17** and **19**, respectively, are bridged by an annular ring **27**.

Referring to FIGURE 2 again, the strands **17** and **19** are covered by a double sheath **29** of flexible material, such as leather or plastic. The strands **17** and **19** are bridged at a point adjacent the end away from annular ring **27** by an annular ring **31**. The double sheath of flexible material **29** extends lengthwise between the annular rings **27** and **31**. A loop **35**, which serves to connect the safety device **1** to the wrist of the person, is formed by threading flexible strap **13** through annular ring **27**. A stop means comprising a third annular ring **33** is placed over the flexible strap **13** so as to be freely movable over strap **13**, but is retained adjacent annular ring **27** in loop **35** to prevent loss of the loop **35** by pulling strap **13** through annular ring **27**.

The loop **21** is shown in a free state in FIGURE 3. The chain link metal strands **17** and **19** are connected to annular ring **31** at points **37** and **39** to form the closed loop **21**. Closed loop **21** is large enough to permit passage of the entire safety device **1** therethrough in order to connect flexible strap **13** to a device having a handle, shown as **41** in FIGURE 2, in such a manner that strap **13** may be disconnected only when the other end of the flexible strap **13** is free.

In the sectional view of FIGURE 4 the construction of the flexible strap **13** is clearly shown, in an enlarged manner. The view is taken across one of the links of each of strands **17** and **19** of chain link metal so that they appear in two portions. For instance, strand **17** is shown having two sections **43** and **45**. Similarly, strand **19** has sections **47** and **49**. The double sheath **29** of flexible material has portions, or sheaths, **51** and **53**. Sheath **51** surrounds the strand **17** of chain link metal, while sheath **53** surrounds strand **19**. The sheaths **51** and **53** comprise a single section **55** of flexible material which is divided by a permanent joint along line **57** to form separate sheaths **51** and **53**. The joint along line **57** may be conveniently made in any manner, such as by stitching. The resulting flexible strap **13** has the strength of the chain link metal and yet possesses the flexibility and softness of texture that results from the use of the flexible material **55**, which is a necessary element in such a device involving human beings.

Particular details of the loop forming means are shown in FIGURE 5. In this figure the annular ring **27** is shown connected to ends **23** and **25** of strands **17** and **19**. This figure also illustrates how the annular ring **33** acts as a

stop means to prevent loss of loop **35**. As seen in this figure, the annular ring **33** is of generally the same shape and size as annular ring **27**. Thus, the presence of annular ring **33** prevents the strands **17** and **19** from being pulled through annular ring **27** when loop **35** is not about the wrist of a person.

Details of fixed loop **21**, as used to connect safety device **1** to a hand-carried object, are illustrated in FIGURE 6. The fixed loop **21** is formed by connecting annular ring **31** between strands **17** and **19**, as described above. Fixed loop **21** may then be passed about the handle of the hand-carried object, such as **41** in FIGURE 2. The entire safety device **1** is then passed through the end of fixed loop **21** away from annular ring **31** to form a loop **59** about the handle of the hand-carried object. Loop **59** may then be tightened to exactly fit the contours of the handle or strap of the hand-carried object, such as shown in FIGURE 1 or FIGURE 2. This provides a means for connecting the safety device **1** (flexible strap **13**) to a handle of any size in such a manner that the safety device may be disconnected only when the other end of the strap is free.

The use of the safety device **1** may be summarized by reference to the above-described figures. Taking as an example the use of the safety device **1** with a woman's handbag, such as shown by the numeral **3** in FIGURE 1, a protective arrangement is easily provided by connecting one end of device **1** to the handbag and the other end to the wrist **11** of the user. First of all, a loop **59** is formed by passing the entire safety device **1** through the fixed loop **21** after the fixed loop **21** has been passed about handle **5** of handbag **3**. The loop **59** is then closed to precisely fit the handle **5** and connect safety device **1** to handle **5** and handbag **3**. At the other end of safety device **1** the loop **35**, formed by annular ring **27** and maintained by the annular ring **33** acting as a stop, is enlarged to pass over the hand of the user. After being positioned on the wrist the loop is then tightened to prevent the safety device **1** from being removed until the user so desires. Thus, the handbag is quickly, easily, and securely connected to the wrist of the user to prevent theft or loss. Also, the device may be easily removed at the will of the user.

It should be understood that the embodiments described are merely exemplary of the preferred practices of the present invention and that various changes, modifications, and variations may be made in the details of construction, arrangement, and operation of the elements disclosed herein, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A safety device for use by a person with a hand-carried object comprising:

a flexible strap;

means at one end of said flexible strap for connecting said strap to the hand-carried object in such a manner that the strap may be disconnected only when the other end of the strap is free;

an annular ring connected directly to said other end of said strap, said annular ring being large enough to permit the threading of said strap therethrough to provide an adjustable loop formed from said strap to fit the wrist of a person hand-carrying the object; and

stop means for preventing loss of said adjustable loop when said strap is not looped about the wrist of a person.

2. A safety device as recited in claim **1** wherein said stop means comprises:

a second annular ring having the same dimensions as said annular ring.

3. A safety device for use by a person with a hand-carried object comprising:

a flexible strap comprising a length of chain link metal folded back upon itself to form a double strand with a loop at one end and free portions at the other end;

a first annular ring of a given size connected to said free portions of said length of chain link metal to simultaneously interconnect said free portions and provide an opening for threading therethrough said flexible strap to provide an adjustable loop to fit the wrist of a person hand-carrying the object;

a second annular ring substantially the same size as said first annular ring providing a stop means for preventing loss of said adjustable loop when said flexible strap is not connected to the wrist of a person;

a third annular ring substantially the same size as said first and second annular rings linking said double strand adjacent said one end to form a closed loop; and

means for connecting said closed loop to the hand-carried object in such a manner that said strap may be disconnected from the object only when said other end of said strap is free.

4. A safety device as recited in claim **3** wherein said double strands of chain link metal between said first annular ring and said third annular ring are covered by a double sheath of flexible leather.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

917,738	4/1909	Opsal	294—74
1,218,714	3/1917	Sunderland et al.	294—74
2,522,719	9/1950	Johnson	224—28

GERALD M. FORLENZA, *Primary Examiner.*

F. E. WERNER, *Assistant Examiner.*