

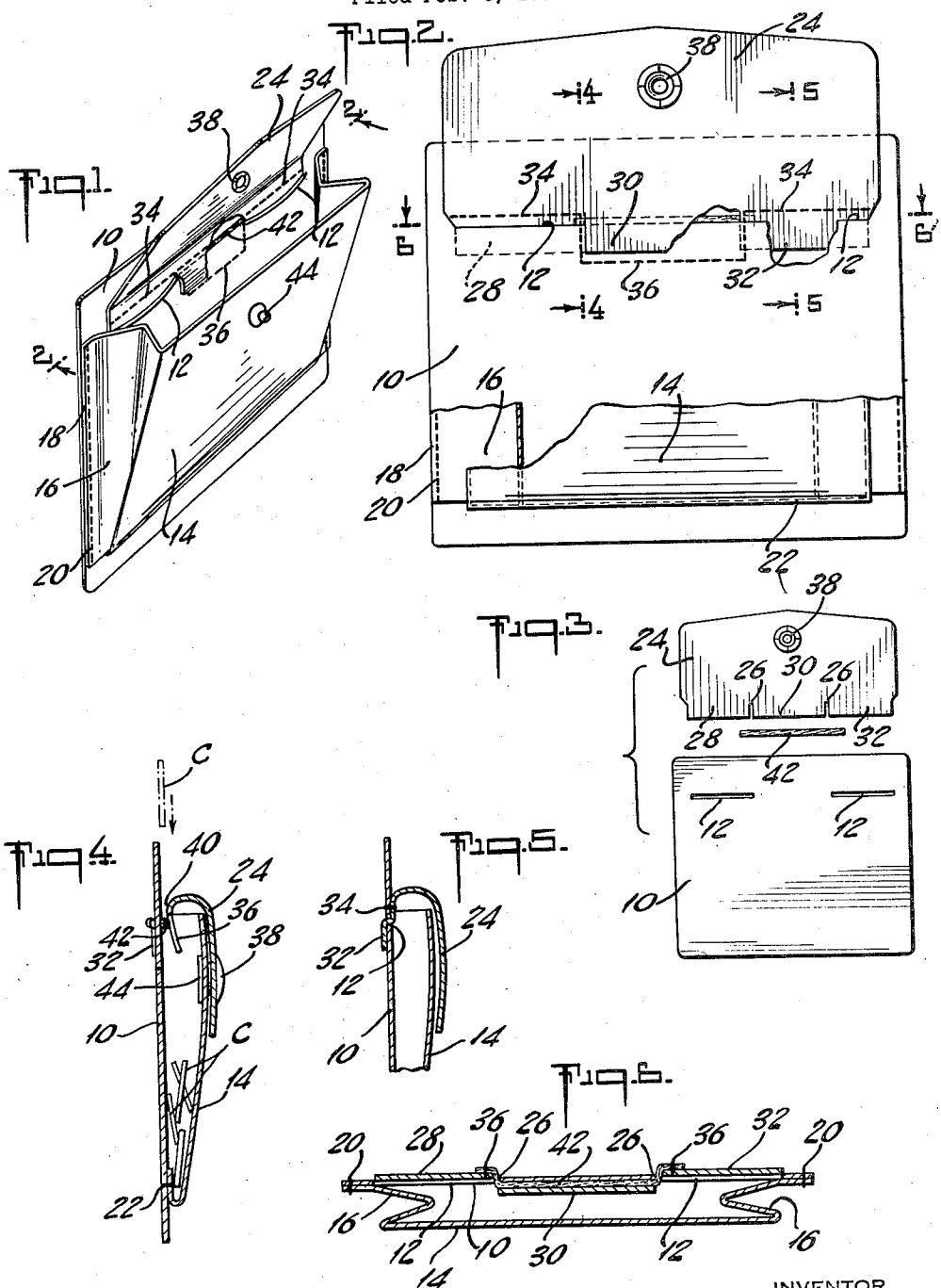
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PURSE

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## PURSE

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The present invention relates to improvements in pocketbooks, wallets, purses and similar receptacles and it relates more particularly to an improved purse wherein coins, tokens and similar articles may be deposited into the purse pocket without the inconvenience of opening the closure flap of said pocket.

Many devices have been proposed heretofore to permit the introduction of coins and other articles into a pocketbook, wallet, purse, or similar receptacle without the necessity of opening the receptacle, the device automatically preventing the egress of the articles therethrough. However, the proposed devices were relatively large, complex and unsightly, thus limiting their application to larger receptacles, and they were not commercially successful.

It is thus a principal object of the present invention to provide an improved construction, applicable particularly to pocketbooks, wallets, purses and similar receptacles.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved purse, wallet or similar receptacle permitting the introduction of coins, tokens or other articles into the normally closed receptacle.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide an improved purse construction having simple, inexpensive means permitting the introduction of coins and tokens into the normally closed purse pocket, said means being capable of being completely constructed of non-metallic materials.

The above and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an improved purse constructed according to and embodying a preferred form of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an exploded front elevational view of some of the members forming the purse;

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken along line 5—5 of Figure 2; and

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken along line 6—6 of Figure 2.

The present invention broadly contemplates the provision of a purse or similar receptacle comprising a pocket and a closure member, a slit formed in said receptacle providing communication to the interior of the receptacle and an elongated elastic member disposed along said slit.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the purse includes a back panel and a front panel secured thereto by means of stitching along their edges thereof to define a pocket having an upper opening or mouth. A closure flap is provided having

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three depending contiguous tabs at its inner edge, the two outer tabs passing rearwardly through corresponding slits formed in the rear panel and stitched thereto and the middle tab projecting into the pocket to define with the confronting face of the back panel, a throat or slit communicating with the interior of the pocket. A suitable elastic string extends along the throat opening or slit, and is supported at its ends by the stitching securing the side tabs and back member. In depositing a coin or token into the closed purse, the coin or token is introduced into the throat or slit, and displaces the elastic string so as to open the throat or slit and permit passage of the coin or token into the purse pocket. The elastic string returns to its original position across the throat or slit immediately after the passage of the coin, thus confining it within the pocket from which it may be removed only by opening the closure flap.

Reference is now made to the drawing annexed hereto and forming a part hereof which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein the numeral 10 generally indicates a rear panel which may be of rectangular configuration as illustrated, and has formed below its upper edge a pair of colinear horizontal laterally spaced transverse slits 12. A front panel 14 is provided with inwardly pleated sides 16 terminating in outwardly directed marginal portions 18 which are secured to the corresponding side margins of the rear panel 10 by lines of stitches 20. The lower margin of the front panel 14 is folded upwardly and secured to the lower portion of the rear panel 10 by a line of stitches 22 so that the front panel 14 and the rear panel 10 define a purse pocket having a top opening.

A closure flap 24 of substantially rectangular configuration is provided and has a pair of symmetrically spaced notches 26 formed in its inner edge to define contiguous tabs 28, 30 and 32 of substantially the same dimensions. The side tabs 28 and 32 pass rearwardly through the slits 12 and are secured to the back panel 10 by lines of stitches 34 along the upper edge of the slits 12. The lines of stitches 34 are joined at their inner edges by the U-shaped line of stitches 36 which has its side legs along the inner edges of the slit 12 and joined by a horizontal line of stitches. The free edge of the closure flap 24 is suitably shaped and is provided with a centrally located female snap fastener 38 which is adapted to engage its male counterpart 44 disposed on the front panel 14 to permit the closing of the purse pocket.

The middle tab 30 projects into the purse pocket, its rear face confronting the front face of the rear panel 10 to define therewith a pocket entrance throat 40. An elastic cord 42 formed of covered or uncovered rubber or any other suitable elastic material is longitudinally disposed between the upper confronting faces of the rear panel 10 and the middle tab 30, the ends of the cord 42 passing rearwardly through the inner corners of the slits 12 and being secured to the rear panel by the vertical legs of the line of stitches 36.

It should be noted that the front and rear panels 14 and 10 and the closure flap 24 may be made of leather, plastic, fabric or any other desirable material. Furthermore, while the panels and closure flap and elastic cord have been shown as secured to each other by stitches, any other suitable fastening means may be employed.

The operation of the improved purse is apparent from the drawing and description. A coin or token C is merely inserted through the throat 40 and urged against the elastic cord 42 thereby to displace the cord sufficiently to permit the passage of the coin C through throat 40 and into the purse pocket. As soon as the coin C drops through the throat 40, the elastic cord 42 returns to its normal position, as illustrated, across and closing throat

40 and thereby preventing the accidental passage of coins out of the purse pocket through the throat 40. The normal weight of the coin is insufficient to displace the elastic cord 42 and permit accidental escape of the coins C from the interior of the pocket.

While there has been described and illustrated a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is apparent that numerous alterations and omissions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

I claim:

1. A purse of the character described comprising a rear panel having a pair of horizontal, colinear, laterally spaced transverse slits formed therein, a front panel having its lower and side edges secured to said rear panel to define an open topped pocket therewith, a closure flap having a pair of spaced depending side tabs and an intermediate tab substantially contiguously arranged, said side tabs passing rearwardly through said slits and secured to said rear panel, and said intermediate tab projecting into said pocket and defining an entrance throat with the confronting wall of said rear panel, and a horizontal elastic cord secured to said rear panel and extending along said throat.

2. A purse in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ends of said elastic cord extend rearwardly through said slits.

3. A purse of the character described comprising a rear panel, a front panel secured to said rear panel along its side and lower edges to define a pocket therewith, a closure flap having a rear edge, laterally spaced portions of said closure flap rear edge being secured to said

rear panel along the upper part of said pocket, an elongated portion of said flap rear edge between said laterally spaced portions being detached from said rear panel, the space between said flap rear edge detached portion and said rear panel defining an entrance throat to said pocket, and an elastic member extending along said throat and having its ends secured to said rear panel to normally close the entrance afforded by said throat to said pocket.

4. A purse of the character described, comprising a rear panel having a pair of laterally spaced horizontal transverse slits, a front panel secured to said rear panel along its side and lower edges to define a pocket therewith, a closure flap having a pair of spaced depending side tabs extending rearwardly through said slits and secured to said rear panel, the confronting faces of said rear panel between said slits and said flap between said tabs being separated and defining between them an entrance throat to said pocket, and an elastic cord secured to said rear panel and extending between said slits in said rear panel and disposed between said rear panel and said closure flap and along said entrance throat.

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