Jan. 22, 1957 K. C. CARRASCO 2,778,397

COVER FOR A LOOSE LEAF NOTEBOOK OR THE LIKE

Filed Nov. 26, 1954 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

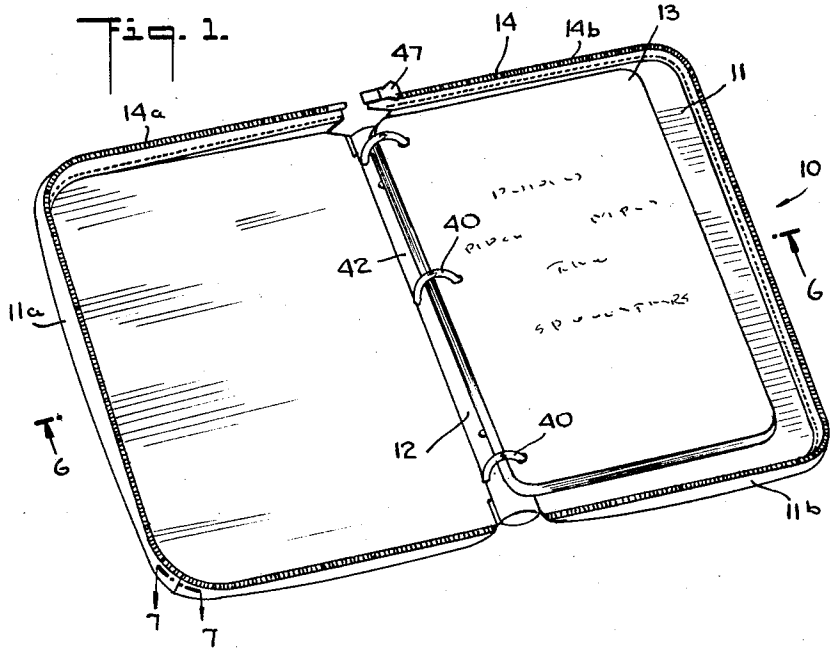


Fig. 3.

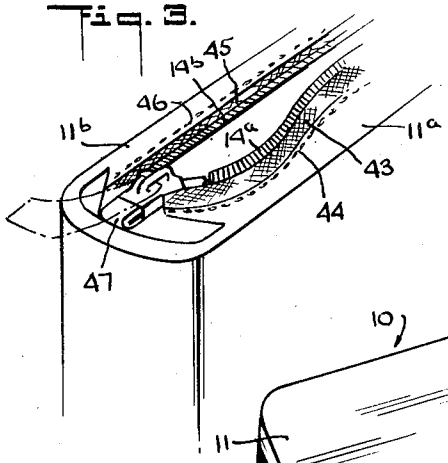
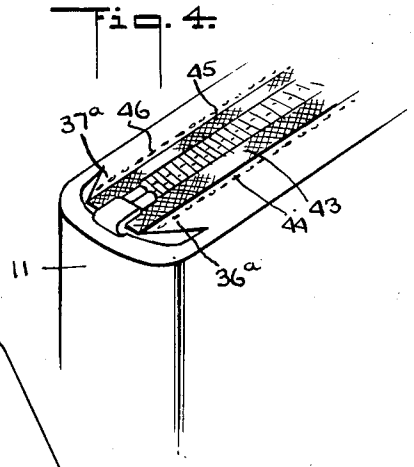


Fig. 4.



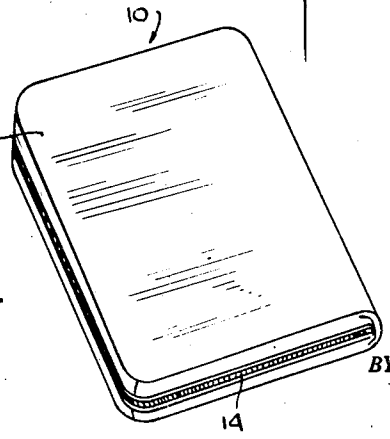


Fig. 2.

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COVER FOR A LOOSE LEAF NOTEBOOK OR THE LIKE

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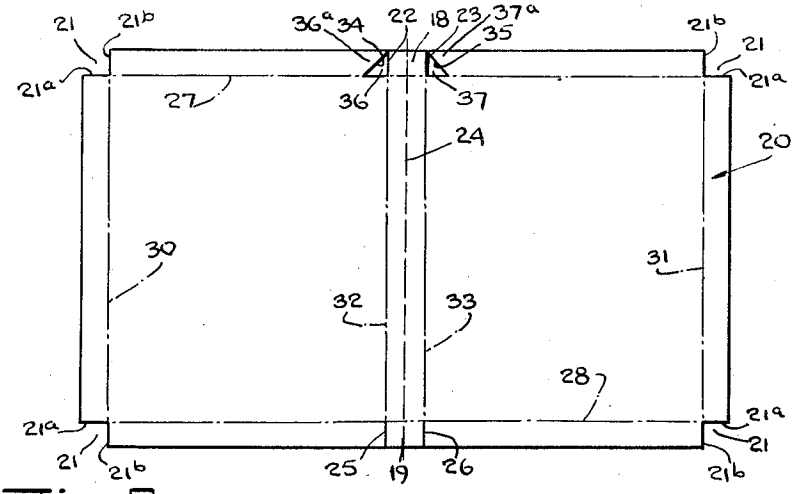


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

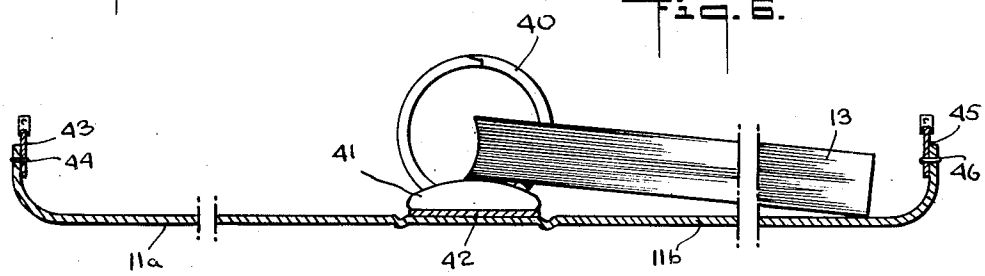


Fig. 8.

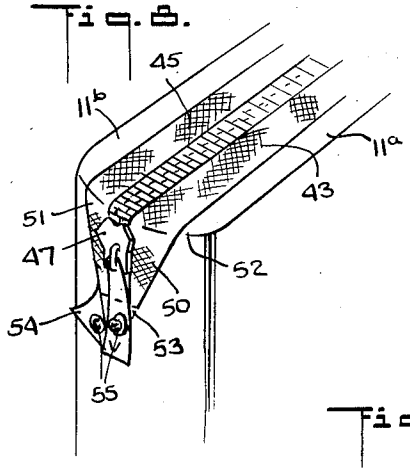


Fig. 9.

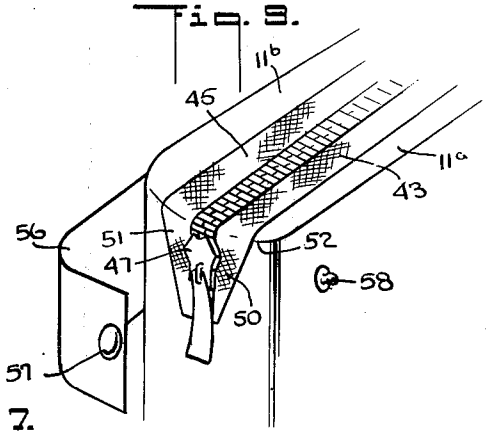


Fig. 7.



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COVER FOR A LOOSE LEAF NOTEBOOK OR THE LIKE

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Application November 26, 1954, Serial No. 471,236

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.6)

The present invention relates to loose leaf notebooks and, more particularly, it relates to a cover for a loose leaf notebook having a zipper means for closing the notebook.

Heretofore, loose leaf notebooks of the type which employ zipper means for closing the covers thereof have been of such construction that the covers are substantially larger in size than the notebook pages. This is because that type of notebook cover utilizes a zipper means of the closed end type which limits by several inches the length of the notebook ring binder and which requires a gusset construction. If the notebook cover were not substantially longer than the metal ring binder, it would be impossible to have the notebook cover lie flat when open. The additional material used in this type of notebook cover and the additional steps required to manufacture such a notebook are reflected in the cost of the item.

In accord with my invention, I have provided a loose leaf notebook comprising a cover made of a unitary piece of leather, a metal ring binder and a zipper means of the open end type which extends around three edges of the cover and is adapted to close the same.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a loose leaf notebook of the above described character wherein the cover will lie flat when open and wherein the note book ring binder is of the same length as the cover.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a loose leaf notebook of the above described character which has a cover formed of a unitary piece of leather.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a loose leaf notebook employing an open end zipper means for closing the cover of the notebook.

In addition, it is an object of the present invention to provide several modifications thereof designed for fastening the pull tab of the zipper means when the notebook is closed.

One advantage residing in my invention is the fact that my novel cover will save space within the notebook permitting the use of maximum size pages.

Another advantage stems from the fact that my notebook is simpler and less expensive to manufacture when compared to the present type of zipper cover loose leaf notebook.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent as it is described in detail below with particular reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective showing my novel notebook in the open position;

Figure 2 is a view in perspective showing the notebook in the closed position;

Figure 3 is a fragmental view in elevation showing an upper corner of my notebook with the zipper means ready for closing;

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 but showing the zipper means closed;

Figure 5 is a plan view showing the leather blank from which the cover is formed;

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on lines 6—6 of Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 7 is a sectional view taken on lines 7—7 of Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 8 is a fragmental view of an upper corner of my notebook showing a modified form of the zipper closure; and

Figure 9 is a fragmental view in elevation of an upper corner of my notebook showing a second modified form of the zipper closure.

With particular reference to Figure 1, there is shown the loose leaf notebook **10** comprising the leather cover **11**, the metal ring binder **12**, paper pages **13**, and open end zipper means **14** located on the cover **11**. The zipper means **14** has two connectable portions **14***a* and **14***b*, which are mounted on the front and back portions **11***a* and **11***b* of cover **11**, respectively. The zipper means **14** is of the open end type, i. e., the zipper portion **14***a* is detachable from the zipper portion **14***b*. This arrangement permits the front and back portions **11***a* and **11***b* of the cover **11** to lie flat when the notebook **10** is open. The metal ring binder **12** extends the length of the notebook **10**.

In forming my novel notebook **10**, I take a rectangular-shaped blank piece of leather **20**, as seen in Figure 5, and cut away each corner thereof so as to define four equal and square shaped cutouts **21** having horizontal edges **21***a* and vertical edges **21***b*.

Fold tabs **18** and **19** are provided at the mid-portions of the top and bottom edges of the piece of leather **20**. The fold tab **18** is formed by cutting the top edge of the piece of leather **20** along lines **22** and **23**, which lines extend downwardly from the top edge of the leather piece **20** on either side of vertical mid-line **24** and equally spaced apart therefrom. The bottom edge of the piece of leather **20** is cut in a similar manner along lines **25** and **26** to define fold tab **19**. The lines **22** and **23** and the lines **25** and **26** extend inwardly no farther than horizontal fold lines **27** and **28**. The upper fold line **27** extends from edge **21***a* of the left upper cutout **21** to edge **21***a* of the right upper cutout **21**. The lower fold line **28** extends from edge **21***a* of the left lower cutout **21** to edge **21***a* of right lower cutout **21**. The fold tab **18** is thus defined by cut lines **22** and **23** and fold line **27** and the fold tab **19** is defined by cut lines **25** and **26** and fold line **28**.

There is further provided a pair of vertical fold lines **30** and **31** extending down the piece of leather **20**. The fold line **30** extends from the edge **21***b* of the left upper cutout **21** to the edge **21***b* of the left lower cutout **21**. The fold line **31** extends from the edge **21***b* of the right upper cutout **21** to the edge **21***b* of the right lower cutout **21**.

An intermediate pair of vertical fold lines **32** and **33** join the cut lines **22** and **23** and the lines **25** and **26**, respectively. The fold lines **32** and **33** are equally spaced apart from the mid-line **24**.

The top edge of the leather piece **20** is then cut along diagonal lines **34** and **35** to define the triangular tabs **36** and **37**. The triangular tabs **36** and **37** are cut at their bases along line **27** so that the tabs are removed leaving the extending triangular tabs **36***a* and **37***a* on either side of fold tab **18**.

The peripheral edges of the piece of leather **20** are folded upwardly along fold lines **27**, **28**, **30** and **31** so that the edges **21***a* and **21***b* of each cutout **21** engage each other. The edges **21***a* and **21***b* of each cutout **21** are then stitched together as seen in Figure 7. The piece of leather **20** now comprises a leather cover **11** with extending peripheral edges stitched together at the four

corners of the cover. The peripheral edges extend substantially perpendicular from the flat surface of the piece of leather 20.

The metal ring binder 12 is then disposed over the piece of leather 20 so that it is bounded by vertical fold lines 32 and 33 and horizontal fold lines 27 and 28. The metal ring binder 12 is of a conventional type comprising a plurality of metal snap rings 40, a metal support 41 for the snap rings and a leather or cardboard base 42 disposed underneath the metal support. The base 42 is glued or otherwise affixed to the piece of leather 20.

The zipper portions 14*a* and 14*b* of the zipper means are then sewn to the upwardly extending portions of the cover 11. The zipper means 14 is of the usual type comprising a pair of metal tracks each track being mounted on a fabric bias. The bias 43 of zipper portion 14*a* is joined by a line of stitching 44 to the extending edges of the front portion 11*a* of the cover 11. The bias 45 of zipper portion 14*b* is likewise joined by a line of stitching 46 to the extending edges of the back portion 11*b* of the cover 11. This can be best seen in Figures 1 and 6. The metal track of zipper portion 14*b* carries a slide fastener 47. The metal tracks are detachable from each other so that when the notebook cover 11 is open, the front and back portions 11*a* and 11*b* of the cover 11 are able to lie in a flat manner.

In closing my notebook 10, the front and back portions 11*a* and 11*b* of cover 11 are brought together so that the end of the metal track of zipper portion 14*a* may be inserted into the slide fastener 47 located on the zipper portion 14*b*. It would be quite impossible to insert this end of the metal track into the slide fastener 47 if it were not for the fact that the ends of the zipper portions 14*a* and 14*b* have a degree of flexibility since they are located on the triangular tabs 36*a* and 37*a* as seen in Figures 3 and 4. The manner in which the end of the metal track of zipper portion 14*a* is inserted into the slide fastener 47 is seen in Figure 3. The slide fastener 47 is then pulled along the metal tracks to the opposite ends thereof so that the cover 11 of the notebook 10 is closed.

In Figure 8, there is shown a modified form of the zipper closure. In this modification, the biases 43 and 45 have extending portions 50 and 51 which carry the metal tracks of the zipper means 14 but which are not joined to the cover 11. Instead, these extending portions 50 and 51 dangle over the upper edge 52 of the closed notebook 10. Overlapping triangular tabs 53 and 54 are located on the extending portions 50 and 51. These triangular tabs 53 and 54 carry cooperative snap fastener means 55 so that the tabs can be closed.

In Figure 9, there is shown a further modified form of the zipper closure. As in the case of the modification shown in Figure 8, the biases 43 and 45 have the extending portions 50 and 51 which carry the metal tracks of the zipper means 14 but which are not joined to the cover 11. These extending portions 50 and 51 are adapted to dangle over the upper edge 52 of the closed notebook 10. A rectangular flap 56 is joined to the outer surface of the back portion 11*b* of the cover 11. This flap 56 has a snap fastener 57 which is adapted to cooperate with a snap button 58 located on the outer surface of the front portion 11*a* of the cover 11. The flap 56 is so located that it can be brought around to cover the extending portions 50 and 51 when the snap fastener 57 is joined to the snap button 58.

Although I have described my invention as applied to a loose leaf notebook as shown in the drawings, it is

to be understood that further modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention. For example, the upturned peripheral edges of the cover 11 may be joined at the four corners of the cover in any conventional manner at all rather than with the stitching shown.

Moreover, it is not necessary that the square shaped cutouts 21 be provided. Instead, the four corners of the rectangular piece of leather 20 may be tucked and gathered in forming the upturned edges of the cover 11. In fact, the zipper means 14 could be applied to the edges of the blank piece of leather 11 without upturning the peripheral edges of the same. This is particularly desirable where a thin notebook is to be used.

Furthermore, my invention is not necessarily limited to a looseleaf notebook. It may be equally applied to a portfolio such as is used by salesmen and the like for carrying their wares, pamphlets and samples.

Finally, my notebook or portfolio may be made of any flexible material though leather is preferred.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A portfolio comprising in combination a cover and zipper means for opening and closing said cover, said cover comprising a rectangular piece of flexible material, said cover having a front portion and a rear portion, the side, top and bottom edges of said front and rear portions being turned substantially perpendicular to the body of said cover and being joined at their adjacent ends, said zipper means including a zipper track mounted on the peripheral edges of said front portion and a zipper track mounted on the peripheral edges of said rear portion, a slide fastener slidably attached to one of said tracks and adapted to be slidably attached to and detached from the other of said tracks in a manner to engage and disengage said tracks, whereby the zipper tracks may be completely separated from one another when the cover is open permitting the front and rear portions to lie in a plane.

2. A portfolio comprising in combination a cover and zipper means for opening and closing said cover, said cover comprising a rectangular piece of flexible material, said cover having a front portion and a rear portion, the side, top and bottom edges of said front and rear portions being turned substantially perpendicular to the body of said cover and being joined at their adjacent ends, a triangular tab attached to the inner ends of each of the top edges, said zipper means including a zipper track mounted on the peripheral edges of said front portion and a zipper track mounted on the peripheral edges of said rear portion, the top inner ends of said zipper track being mounted on said tabs, a slide fastener slidably attached to one of said tracks and adapted to be slidably attached to and detached from the other of said tracks in a manner to engage and disengage said tracks, whereby the zipper tracks may be completely separated from one another when the cover is open permitting the front and rear portions to lie in a plane.

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