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J. S. GRAM

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PORTFOLIO

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Fig. 1.

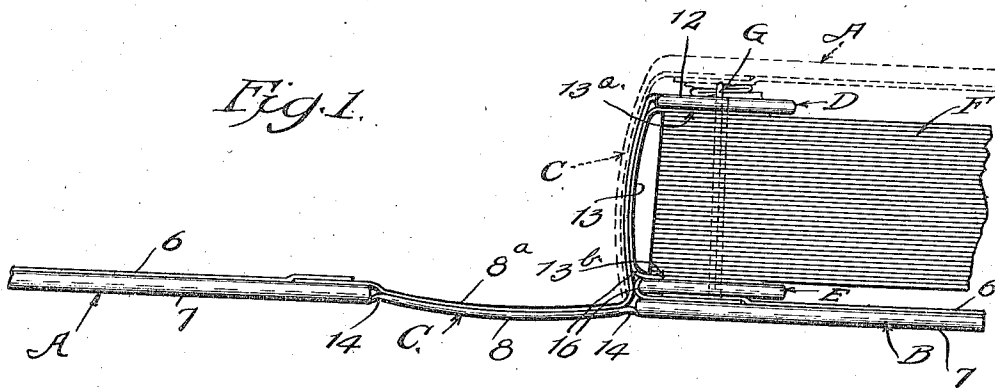


Fig. 2.

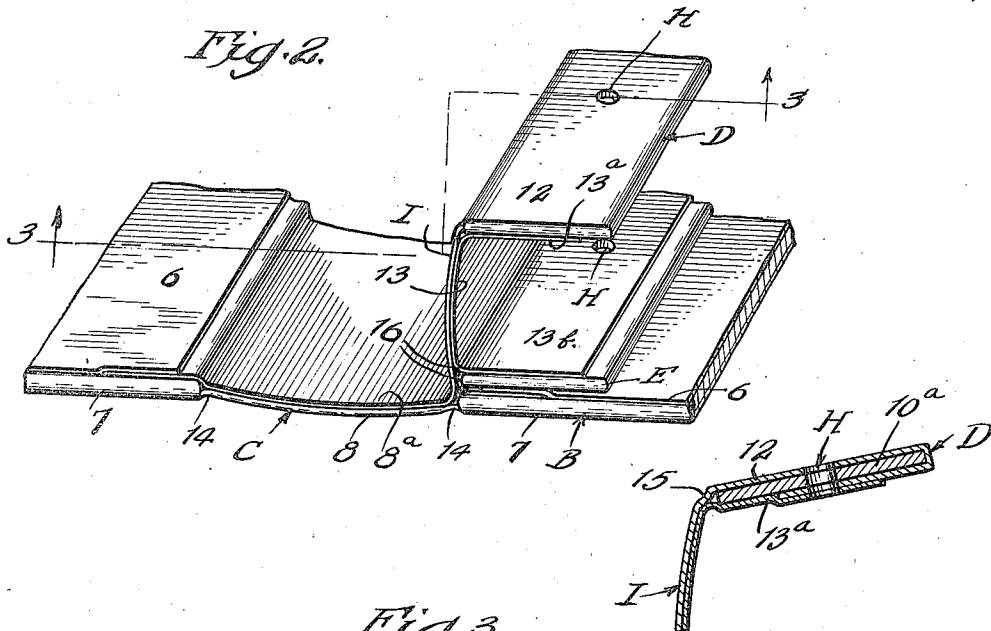
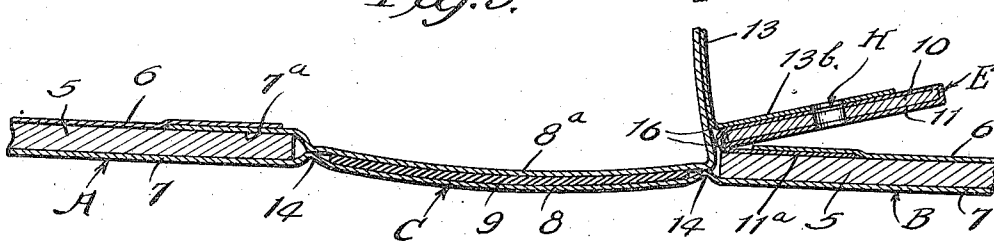


Fig. 3.



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## PORTFOLIO

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4 Claims. (Cl. 129—1)

My invention relates to portfolios, binders and similar structures that are of booklike form and which are especially designed for the purpose of binding together a stack of loose leaves or sheets. More particularly my improvements relate to the construction and assembly of the back section and the manner of mounting the binding strips whereby I have been able to provide a finished article that presents a neat appearance in either opened or closed positions. In carrying out my invention I have provided the usual covers and back, but in addition to these parts there is added what may be called a supplementary or false back that is connected in a novel manner to the covers and back, and there are spaced flanges that form the elongated binding members or strips between which the loose leaves or sheets may be removably secured by any suitable means. Thus, when the covers are opened the bound edges of the leaves or sheets are obscured by the supplementary or false back and the latter presents the effect of a closed back within the covers and outer back. Also, when the binder is opened both the covers and the outer back member will lie flat upon a support. The arrangement thus provided does not affect the normal opening and closing, or hinging of the leaves. The improvement permits of the artistic treatment of the inner surface of the back member in the form of decorative facing that dependably connects the outer back to the cover and the supplementary back and extends upon the upper binding strip.

Generally speaking, my invention embodies covers connected by an outer back member, a wide and a narrow flap hingedly or flexibly mounted at the juncture of one of the covers and the back member, and a lateral flap along the free edge of the wide flap to oppose the narrow flap and co-acts with the latter to provide the binding elements for holding the leaves or sheets. A strip of finishing material extends from one cover across the inner face of the back and the outer faces of the wide flap or false back and the lateral flap that projects from the free edge of said wide flap.

Among the objects of my invention are to provide an article of the kind described that is novel and dependable in construction; is made of a few simple parts; is effective in performing the functions for which it is designed; is easy to operate or manipulate; and is economical to manufacture so that it may be sold to the user for a reasonable price. Other objects and advantages will be apparent to persons skilled in the art after my invention is understood from the within disclosure.

I prefer to practice my invention, and to accomplish the objects thereof, in substantially the manner hereafter fully explained and as more particularly set forth in the claims. Reference is made to the accompanying drawing that forms a part of this specification.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a view looking at the lower edge of a portfolio or binder which embodies my invention, the right and left hand portions of the covers and leaves being broken away and the structure shown in open position.

Figure 2 is a fragmental view, drawn in perspective, showing the structure illustrated in Fig. 1, and the leaves removed.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2 and drawn to a larger scale with the binding flaps in slightly distorted positions for the purpose of clearness.

The drawing is to be understood as more or less schematic for the purpose of disclosing a typical or preferred embodiment of my invention and in the drawing like reference characters identify the same parts wherever such parts appear in the different views.

Briefly stated the main portion of the structure consists of covers A and B that are flexibly connected by a back member C, and there are binder strips D and E between which the loose leaves F are removably secured in any suitable manner, in the present instance an ornamental cord G is shown that passes through perforations in the sheets and through apertures H in the binder strips.

The covers may consist of pieces of heavy book-board or binder-board having inner facings and outer facings of suitable material. The outer facings of the covers may be ornamental fabric, or plain or decorated leather, or the like, and said material extends from one cover to the other to form the outer surface of the back member C between the covers. The back member C may be reinforced with an intermediate piece of thin straw-board, heavy paper, or the like.

The lower binder strip E is preferably mounted adjacent the hinged edge of the right hand cover and consists of a narrow elongated strip of binder-board, preferably thinner than the strips of the covers, and it is enveloped by cloth facing that has an extended portion that is glued or otherwise adhered to the adjacent cover B between the binder-board and facing sheet as shown in Fig. 3.

The other binder strip D is spaced above the

binder strip just described and is in the form of a lateral flange projecting from the adjacent upper portion of the supplementary or false back I. In order to face this false back I employ a small piece of facing material and adhere it to the inner surface of the back member C to provide a decorative facing 8a thereon and I extend an edge portion 7a upon the inner surface of the cover A and adhere it to the surface of the binder-board beneath the adjacent edge of the facing material 6 as shown at the left in Fig. 3. The remaining portion of the piece of facing material extends from the back C to the upper binder strip D where it provides a facing 12 for the piece of thin binder-board 10a forming a part of the upper binder strip. This decorative material also extends across a portion of the under surface of the binder-board 10a as shown in detail in Fig. 3.

It will be noted the portion of the decorative material between the binder strips D and E is close to or at the hinged edge of the lower binder strip E, and in order to secure the parts together, as well as to reinforce the false back I, a piece of strong fabric 13 is adhered to the inside face of the decorative material and has its marginal portions 13a and 13b adhered to the facing portions of the respective upper and lower binding strips D, E. This strong fabric strip or web 13 thus provides the body portion of the supplementary or false back section I that is covered on its outer surface with the decorative facing material and assists in connecting the binder strips D and E together in their spaced relation. The margins of the back C are reduced in thickness as at 14 to provide flexibility for hinging action between the covers and the back. The false back I also has hinging action with respect to the back C and the adjacent cover B. The binder strips D, E likewise have hinging action at the points 15 and 16, Fig. 3.

From the foregoing it will be seen the closed book or portfolio presents the appearance as an ordinary book or portfolio, but when the cover A is opened, as shown in the drawing, the leaves remain flat, and the back C will lie flat upon a table, desk or other support while the stack of leaves will be disposed upon the cover B. In this position the false back I remains in position between the binder strips D and E and also presents the appearance of a closed book. The decorative material beside providing the inner facing of the back member C, and an outer facing for the false back I, enhances the appearance of the structure when the cover A has been opened. The reinforcing fabric 13 on the false back I will not readily be visible nor will the portions 13a or 13b of this material be visible because leaves held against the binder strips will prevent these portions being seen.

What I claim is:

1. A device of the kind described comprising a back section, covers flexibly connected to the longitudinal edges of said back section, a supplementary back section flexibly connected to the before-mentioned structure at substantially the juncture of one of the covers and the first-named back section, binder strips extending laterally from opposite edges of said supplementary back section, and a strip of material extending continuously upon and secured to surfaces of both of said back sections and constituting portions thereof, said strip of material also extended upon the binder strip projecting from the free edge of the supplementary back section.
2. A binder comprising a back section, covers flexibly connected thereto, a supplementary back section extending from said first-named back section and disposed between said covers, a binder strip extending laterally from the free edge of said supplementary back section, a second binder strip co-acting with said first-named binder strip and mounted adjacent the anchored edge of said supplementary back section, and a strip of material secured to and extending continuously across the adjacent surfaces of the said back sections and constituting portions thereof.
3. A binder consisting of inner and outer bodies, each body comprising two spaced members and an intermediate member that are hingedly connected along adjacent longitudinal edges, means connecting a hinge edge of the inner body to an adjacent hinge edge of the outer body, and a sheet of material disposed upon the inside face of the intermediate member of the outer body, the outside face of the intermediate member of the inner body, and also across and concealing the line of connection between said bodies, whereby to adapt one body for hinging movement with respect to the other body, said material providing a finish on the intermediate member of the inner body that is exposed when the outer body is opened.
4. A binder comprising a back section, covers flexibly connected to adjacent edges thereof, spaced binder members one of which is disposed with a margin adjacent the juncture between a cover and said back section, and means connecting said binder members consisting of a body web secured to opposing faces of said binder members for maintaining them in spaced relation, and facing material secured upon the inner face of said back section and extending across said body web and secured to a face of one of said spaced binder members, whereby another back section is provided independent of the first-mentioned back section, said other back section connecting said binder members.

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