Oct. 20, 1953 R. L. HATFIELD 2,655,705

BILLFOLD RETAINER CLIP

Filed March 11, 1950

Fig. 1.

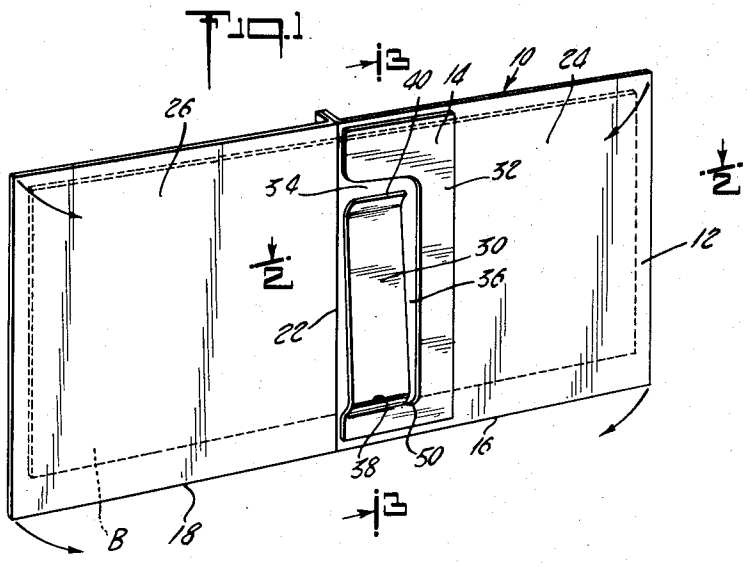



Fig. 2.

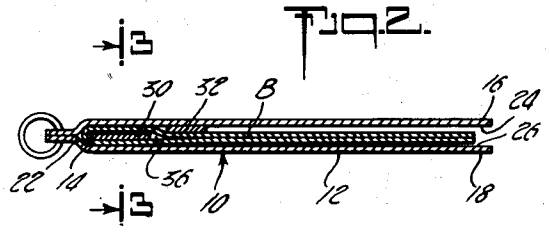
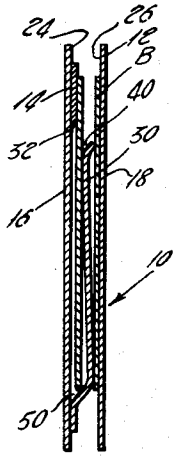



Fig. 3.




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## BILLFOLD RETAINER CLIP

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—259)

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The present invention relates generally to paper money bill-folds. In particular, it relates to devices for holding paper money neatly and securely in flatly-folded condition.

The device of the present invention includes a fold-over cover of any suitable material as leather, leatherette, plastic sheeting or the like, within which is secured a novel retainer clamp whereby sheets of paper money are held firmly within the cover, folded exactly in half, and securely held in such condition, in position within the margins of the fold-over cover. In the following description of an illustrative embodiment of the present invention, paper money will be referred to generally as "bills."

The main object of the present invention is the provision of an elongated cover member foldable transversely along a center line, and a bill retaining clamp secured on an inner face of one fold of the cover adjacent the fold line, whereby bills placed in the clamp are folded transversely and medially, and firmly gripped in said position against displacement when the fold is flexed.

Among additional objects of the present invention are the provision of a retainer clamp comprising a normally flat sheet of spring metal having a finger formed therefrom extended along a longitudinal side of the sheet; the provision of a slit in the sheet extending inwardly a substantial distance from a longitudinal marginal side of the sheet and thence downwardly to a point short of the bottom edge, the slit defining a retainer finger, permitting insertion of the bills; the provision of a slit which is L-shaped or of reverse outline, whereby the outlined portion of the sheet forms a spring finger to cooperate with the cover to grip the bills therebetween.

Other and further objects of the present invention will in part be obvious, and in part specifically pointed out in the following description of an illustrative embodiment.

In the drawings annexed hereto, forming a part hereof,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bill-fold including the clamp constructed according to and embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a section on the lines 3—3 of Figures 1 and 2.

The bill-fold according to the present invention, indicated generally by reference numeral 10, comprises a cover member 12 and a bill retainer clamp 14.

Cover 12 is of over-all rectangular outline,

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formed of leather, leatherette, plastic sheeting or any other suitable material as desired. While, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, cover 12 is formed of two identically sized and shaped sections 16, 18, clamped together as at 20, cover 12 may be formed of a single sheet of the chosen material. However formed, cover 12 may be folded transversely on itself, along a center line 22, in the direction of the arrows (Figure 1) whereby the inner faces 24, 26 of wing sections 16, 18 respectively may be brought substantially together, as seen in Figures 2 and 3. As will be readily understood, cover 12 may be limited in size and dimensioning only by convenience, and by the sizes of bills desired or intended to be disposed therewithin.

Retainer clamp 14, of my invention, is formed of a relatively thin, flat sheet of springy material, as metal, plastic sheeting or the like. The length of retainer clamp 14 is such as to fit within the height of cover 12. The width of retainer clamp 14 need be such as to provide a sufficiently operative finger 30 without weakening the body portion 32 thereof. As seen in Figure 1, a slit is stamped or otherwise formed in and through the body of clamp 14, the slit having one leg component 34 thereof extending inwardly from a longitudinal marginal side edge of the clamp towards and short of the opposite side, communicating with a second leg component 36 extending downwardly, to a point short of the lower edge of the clamp. The finger 30, thus formed by the communicating slits 34, 36 from the body of the clamp, is spaced from the adjacent edge of the body along slit 36. In practice I have found that a width of the order of $\frac{3}{32}$'' is quite satisfactory. Finger 30, defined by the slittings, may be crimped or bent outwardly, as its base, as at 38 adjacent its connection with the body of the clamp, thereby tensioning finger 30 to lean towards the body. The free end of finger 30 may be bent outwardly, as seen at 40, to permit the insertion of bills into the slit.

Retainer clamp 14 is permanently secured to the inner face 24 of section 16, with the outer longitudinal edge of finger 30 disposed substantially along the transverse fold line 22. Securement may be by rivets or by any suitable adhesive material, the desiderata being the positioning of the clamp with the outer edge of the finger as closely adjacent the fold line as possible consistent with preventing bulging at the center when the cover is folded.

When inserting a bill or bills as B within the fold of my invention, cover 12 is opened to permit

free access to clamp 14. Bill B is then inserted into slit 34 against the pressure of finger 30 towards section 16 and pushed or pulled down slit 36 until the lower edge of the bill or bills B rests against the lower edge of the leg 36, as at 50. The bill is then manually adjusted against the pressure of finger 30 to locate the center of the bill over fold line 22. Cover 18 may then be folded.

As will be seen from Figure 1, once the bill has been properly located, it will be firmly gripped and held against shifting in any direction between finger 30 and the cover. The inner edge of clamp 14 and finger 30 lies adjacent center line 22. Thus, when the cover is opened, the bill will be held against any movement away from its initially fixed position. The retainer clamp is out of sight, inside the cover, when the cover is closed. The clamp is substantially flat, and a number of bills as B may be disposed therewithin without undue bulkiness, because finger 30 is not raised substantially by the presence of bills behind it, the bills bending at slit 36.

The importance of a relatively wide slit 36 appears when a number of bills B, of some substantial thickness, are disposed within my retainer. The side slit operates to reduce bulging and bulkiness, particularly along slit 36, shaping the bills in a shallow curve to prevent shearing and raising of finger 30. The thickness of clamp body 10 is thus utilized to its full extent to receive the mass of the bills.

Having now described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:



A bill retainer clamp for securement in a billfold adjacent the fold line thereof, said clamp comprising an originally flat elongated substantially rectangular blank of spring material, a right-angled slit therethrough, one leg of said slit extending inwardly from one long side edge thereof spaced from the top edge, across the width of the blank short of the opposite long side edge, the other leg of said slit extending downwardly and substantially parallel to the long sides to a point short of the bottom edge of the blank thereby forming a finger portion and a main body portion, said finger portion being bent away from said main body portion at its juncture therewith and then reversely bent towards and past the plane of the main body portion to produce a gripping bias for retention of the bill, and said finger portion being outwardly bent at its free end to form an outwardly projecting end portion.

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