Jan. 20, 1942. B. STEMBER 2,270,775

HANDBAG

Filed Jan. 29, 1941

Fig. 1

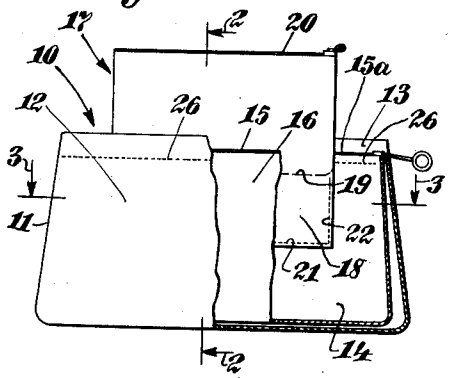


Fig. 2

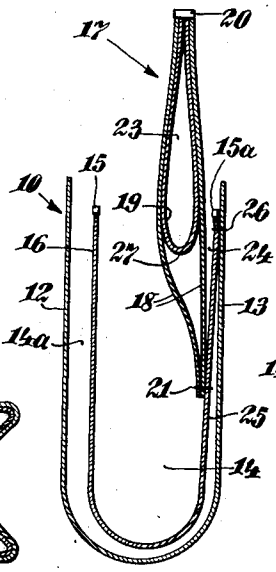


Fig. 4

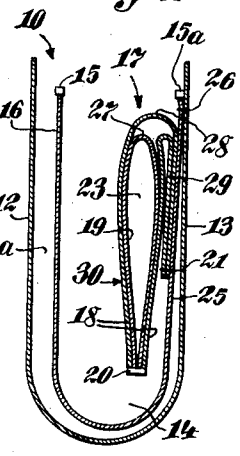


Fig. 3

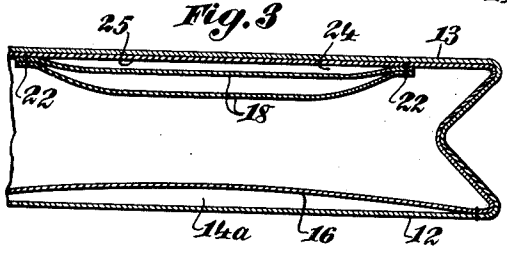


Fig. 5

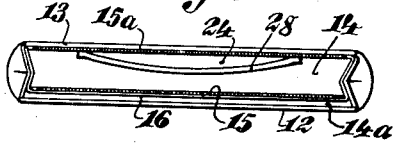


Fig. 7

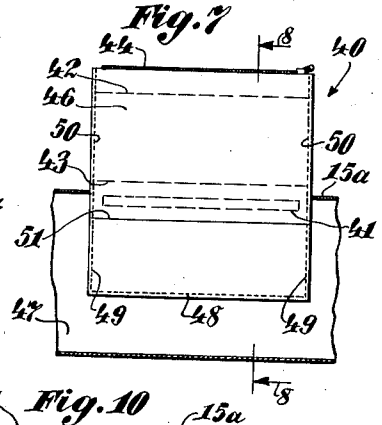


Fig. 8

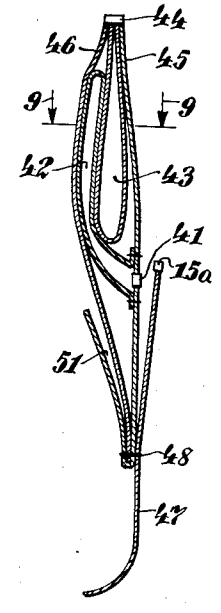


Fig. 6

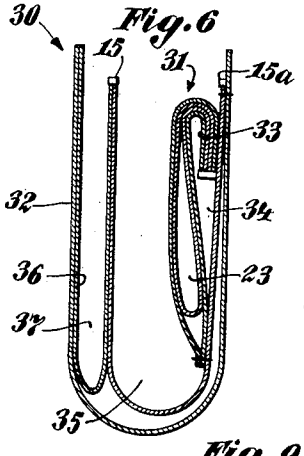


Fig. 10

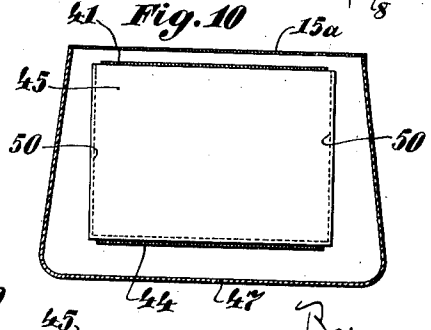


Fig. 9



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HANDBAG

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Application January 29, 1941, Serial No. 376,443

3 Claims. (Cl. 150—36)

This invention relates to handbags and has particular reference to secret pockets therefor.

One object of the invention is to provide a lady's handbag having improved means affording a secret pocket, whereby the latter is more effectively concealed within the bag body than heretofore and is nevertheless readily accessible for use.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a handbag having a secret pocket constructed in an improved means so as to be much more accessible than heretofore.

Another object of the invention is to furnish a handbag having a secret pocket means which is movable in part outside of the handbag for easier inspection of the contents thereof.

Another object is to construct a handbag secret pocket which is folded and whose depth is limited substantially to hand-length.

Another object of the invention is to provide a handbag having a fixed partition comprising a folded secret pocket which is readily accessible.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated in the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation with certain parts removed and in section showing a handbag embodying the invention, with the secret pocket unfolded for access thereto.

Figs. 2 and 3 are sectional views taken on the lines 2—2 and 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a view like that of Fig. 2, but with the secret pocket folded in normal position.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the open handbag in the position corresponding to that of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view generally similar to that of Fig. 4, but showing a modification.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view with parts in elevation and others in section showing another modification, in which the secret pocket is in unfolded position.

Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken on line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a view taken on line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a sectional view similar to that of Fig. 7 but showing in elevation the downwardly folded secret pocket structure.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 10 denotes a handbag embodying the invention. The same may comprise a bag body 11 having side walls 12, 13 affording therebetween a suitable compartment or compartments including a main pocket 14, having a top opening or mouth closed by a slide fastener 15, 15a. If desired, another normally open pocket 14a may be provided between the main pocket 14 and the wall 12 by means of a wall or lining 16 extending between and connected to the end walls of the bag body.

Within the bag body 11 or the main pocket 14 thereof is a pocket means 17 affording a secret pocket. Desirably, the pocket means 17 is formed of opposed walls 18 and a folded lining 19 therebetween, arranged to afford an end opening which is releasably closed by a marginal closure or slide fastener 20 that is adapted to lie in the plane of the pocket member 17. The latter may be constructed and mounted on the wall 13 as by a line of stitching 21 extending along the bottom or lower ends of the walls 18 and upward along the ends thereof at 22. Above the stitching 22, the walls 18 and/or the lining 19 may be interconnected in any suitable manner or by any seam or stitching, not shown. The upper ends of the lining 19 are connected to the side walls 18 by the slide fastener sections as by being stitched to the respective stringers thereof in the well known manner. Thus the lining 19 actually defines the secret pocket 23 afforded by the device 17.

If it be desired to provide an auxiliary pocket 24, the same may be constructed by forming a lining or wall 25 along the wall 13, and desirably sewing it to the latter as at 26 and to the end walls of the bag body in the same way as the lining 16. In fact, the lining 25 may be a continuation of the lining 16. If such a lining 25 is provided, the lines of stitching at 21, 22 need not pass through the wall 13 but may be made with the lining 25, to facilitate manufacture of the device 17 outside of the walls 12, 13, so that the various linings and the device 17 may afterwards be inserted into and stitched to said walls 12, 13. The device 17 may be of any suitable length and may extend for less than the length of the bag body 11 or the main pocket 14 thereof.

The important features to note in the structure of the device 17 and its mounting is that in the unfolded position shown in Figs. 1 and 2,

the device 17 is sufficiently elongated vertically to extend for a substantial distance upward and beyond the open mouth of the main pocket 14. Nevertheless, the secret pocket 23 has its bottom, which is provided by the fold 27 of the lining 19, located at a substantial height above the bottom of the main pocket 14. The depth of the secret pocket 23, as thus determined, is generally like that of the main pocket 14 and is approximately equal to what may be termed hand length to facilitate access to and inspection of the contents of the secret pocket. Nevertheless, the bottom 27 of the secret pocket 23 lies within the bag body 11 and is thus directly supported by the lines of end stitching 22 against a push which may be exerted by the fingers against said bottom. Of course, the upper end portion of the device 17 which projects out of the bag body may be held in the hand while the contents are being handled.

A dominant feature of the handbag is shown in Figs. 4 and 5, in which the device 17 is shown in its normal and usual position, transversely, horizontally folded as at 28 to thus form an inverted generally U-shaped structure, which may thus comprise a fixed arm 29 and a free or movable depending arm 30. The line of folding at 28 may be determined by the upper ends of the stitching 22 and by stiffening means, not shown, and is relatively closely below the slide fastener 15, 15a so that the latter may be freely opened and closed. In this normal folded position, the arm 30, which contains the secret pocket, lies wholly within the main body 11, with the slide fastener 20 thereof lying near the bottom but somewhat above the same and underneath and thus concealed by the arm 30. Accordingly, the folded device 17 forms a partition as shown in Fig. 5, between the compartments 14 and 24, and from above presents the appearance of conventional handbag structure, for effective concealment of the secret pocket. Nor can the latter be readily opened unless the pocket means 17 is unfolded out of the main pocket 14 as shown in Fig. 2, since the slide fastener 20 is quite inaccessible and is protectively enclosed within the handbag bottom.

In Fig. 6 is shown a modification 30 which is like the handbag 10, except that the pocket means 31, corresponding to that at 17, is of less length in the vertical direction and is set lower into the bag body 32, the movable arm or section 33 of the U-shaped form being shorter and being received in an adjacent auxiliary pocket 34 which may be like the pocket 24 or longer. With this arrangement, the movable section may project relatively little beyond the closure 15, 15a when the pocket means 31 is unfolded as indicated in Fig. 2, but here also, the secret pocket is of hand depth and is above the bottom of the main pocket 35. Since the section 33 forms a rather short flap-like portion, it may be detachably secured to an adjacent part of the device 31, but, in general, the pocket 34 will serve to hold it down snugly, especially at the opposite ends of the pocket 34. In addition, the device 30 includes a lining 36 for the pocket 37, and such a lining may also be provided for the pocket 14a.

In Figs. 7, 8, 9 and 10 is shown another modification 40 which is like the handbag 10, except that a slide fastener such as 41 is provided along the top or fold of the partition structure such as indicated in Fig. 5, to thus account for the thickness of the partition, and lead a person to believe that the pocket 42 which communicates with the fastener 41 is the only pocket in the partition. In this way concealment of the secret pocket 43 which is closed by a slide fastener 44 is rendered more complete and more difficult to detect.

For these purposes, I provide walls 45, 46, sewn to the wall 47 of the handbag as by stitching at 48, 49, as at 21, 22, with the pocket lining 43 connected to the fastener 44, and the pocket lining 42 connected to the fastener 41. These pockets lie at least partially alongside of each other as shown and will be secured by the lines of stitching 50. In the unfolded position of Figs. 7 and 8, the secret pocket 43 opens upward, and the pocket 42 opens downward, with the slide fastener 41 being somewhat below the slide fastener section 15a. A portion of the wall 45 may be upwardly folded at the bottom to provide an auxiliary normally concealed open pocket 51 which is formed by the stitching 48, 49.

When the secret pocket 43 is in normal position, it is downwardly moved by folding of the walls such as 45, 46 to produce an arrangement like that indicated in Fig. 4, and as shown in Fig. 10, in which the structure forms a partition like that of Fig. 5, but having along the top thereof the slide fastener 41 to assure superior concealment of the secret pocket.

It will be noted that the structure afforded by this invention is superior to those heretofore provided in respect to accessibility of the secret pocket. Heretofore, the means assuring secrecy formed obstructions and encumbrances against access, which are wholly eliminated herein.

I claim:

1. A handbag including a bag body having a main pocket having a top opening, an inverted generally U-shaped folded means forming a part of the bag body and having one arm thereof free for upward movement in unfolding said means, the latter having a secret pocket therein having an opening at the lower end of the free arm, and a releasable closure for said opening, said means comprising an auxiliary pocket located solely in the free arm thereof, said auxiliary pocket having an opening at the top of the fold of said means.

2. A handbag including a bag body having a main pocket having a top opening, an inverted generally U-shaped folded means located wholly within the main pocket and constituting a partition therefor, said folded means having one arm thereof free for upward movement in unfolding said means, the latter having a secret pocket therein having an opening at the lower end of the free arm, a releasable closure for said opening, said means comprising an auxiliary pocket in the free arm thereof, said auxiliary pocket having a closeable opening at the top of the fold of said means.

3. A handbag including a bag body having a main pocket having a top opening, an inverted generally U-shaped folded means forming a partition for the bag body and having one arm thereof free for upward movement in unfolding said means, the folded partition means having a plurality of pockets therein including pocket portions in the free arm thereof, one pocket portion having an opening and a closure therefor at the free end of said arm, and the other pocket portion having an opening and a closure therefor at the fold line of said means.

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