Sept. 27, 1966 M. JACOBSON 3,275,362

CLASPS

Filed July 28, 1964

Fig. 1.

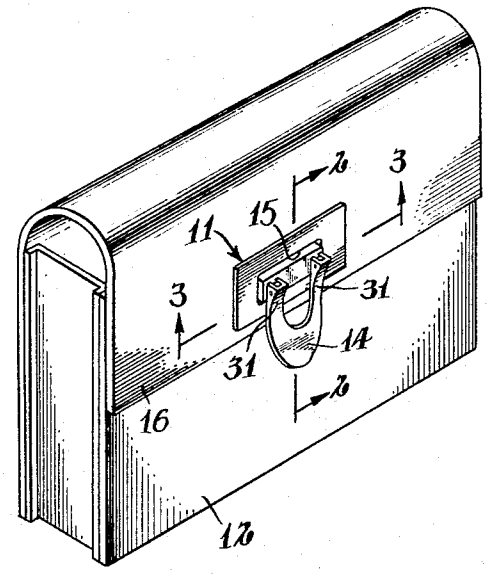


Fig. 2.

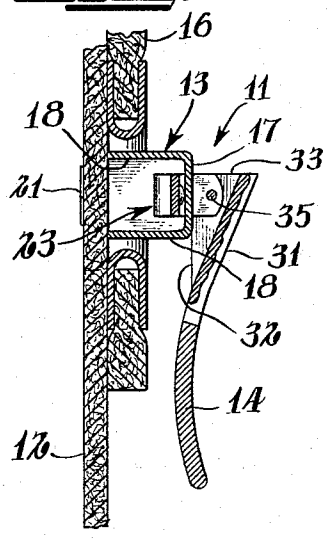


Fig. 3.

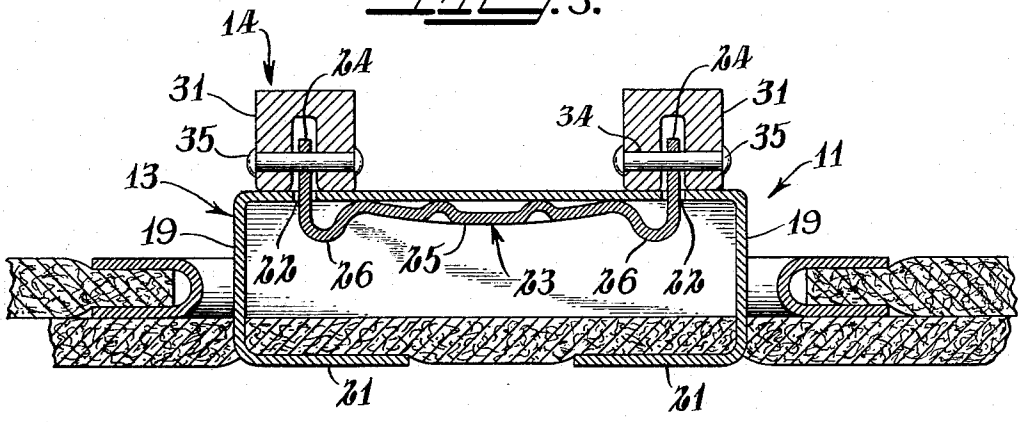
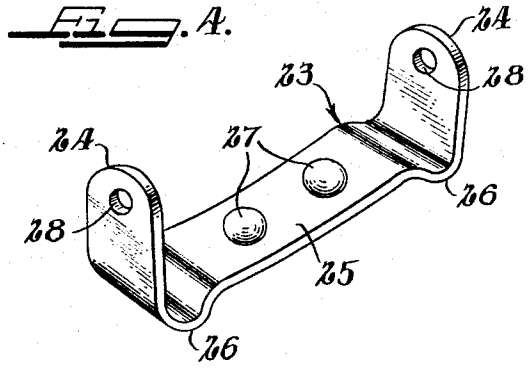


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR
MARTIN JACOBSON

BY

Elmer L. Zwickel
Atty.

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Martin Jacobson, Providence, R.I., assignor to Rau Findings Company, Providence, R.I., a corporation of Rhode Island

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This invention relates to improvements in fastening devices and is more particularlarly concerned with a novel clasp having novel spring mounted latch means and of a type especially useful for securing a flap on a hand-bag or the like in closed position.

Purses, handbags and like articles usually are provided on the body thereof with a clasp that includes a spring controlled latch element which is passed, while in an open or raised position, through an opening in the cover or flap and subsequently moved into a closed or latching position to prevent withdrawal of the flap. Known types of clasp construction involve the use of separate mounting means for the latch element and the association with it of a separate spring means operable to retain the latch in open or closed positions. Such structures have the disadvantage or requiring costly assembly operations of a multitude of parts.

In accordance with the present invention the latch element is hingedly connected directly to the spring element which in turn mounts the latch element on an attaching body. The present structure and assembly has many advantages not known to be present in prior known structures. The assembly requires a minimum of parts that are easily and quickly assembled and secured in assembled position. It is rugged in its construction.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a novelly constructed clasp structure.

Another object is to provide a clasp with a novelly mounted latch element.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clasp with a novel spring construction.

Another object is to provide a clasp with a novelly assembled latch element and spring assembly.

The structure by means of which the above noted and other advantages and objects of the invention are attained will be described in the following specification, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, showing a preferred illustrative embodiment of the invention, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an exemplary hand bag showing the improved clasp mounted thereon.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged vertical sectional view of the clasp, taken substantially along line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view, taken substantially along line 3—3 of FIG 1.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the spring element.

Referring to the exemplary disclosure in the accompanying drawings, the clasp **11** is adapted to be mounted on the front wall **12** of a hand bag or like article. It includes a mounting body **13** upon which is pivotally mounted a latch element **14** that is adapted to be extended through a hole **15** in the flap **16** of the hand bag and then pivoted approximately 90° so as to overlie the flap and prevent it from being opened.

As best shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the mounting body **13** is fabricated from stiff sheet metal and it includes a front wall **17** and rearwardly extending side walls **18** and end walls **19**. The end walls each carry on their free edges a piercing prong **21** that is projected through the front wall **12** of the hand bag and clinched to secure the body thereto. The front wall **17** of the body is provided with a pair of longitudinally spaced openings **22**.

A spring element **23** is arranged within mounting body **13** and it has its ends **24** bent normal to the plane of its

intermediate portion **25** so as to be projected outwardly one through each opening **22**. Specifically, the spring element **23**, which is best shown in FIG. 4, comprises a strip of hard brass bent to provide intermediate body portion **25** and two end portions **24** bent normal thereto. Preferably, the body portion **25** is bowed rearwardly and then forwardly in the direction of the end portions to provide bowed end areas **26** and the stretch between said areas **26** is bowed rearwardly slightly as shown and has a pair of detent projections **27** therein which bear against the back face of the front wall **17**. The projecting ends **24** are apertured as at **28**.

The latch element **14** may be of any general overall configuration but preferably is in the form of a substantially U-shaped member and is made of cast or stamped metal so as to be very strong and rigid. The end portions or legs **31** of the U-shaped member have a flat side face **32** and are substantially square on their terminal ends, as at **33**, and each terminal is apertured, as at **34**.

To assemble, the apertured legs **31** of the U-shaped latch element are matched one with each projecting end **24** of the spring, and pivot pins **35** are driven through the aligned apertures **28**, **34** of each assembly so as to hingedly connect the latch element with the spring ends. This assembly is such that the spring normally urges the flat or squared surfaces **32** or **33** of the latch element firmly against the front wall **17** of body **13**.

In use, the spring element **23** normally holds the latch element projected outwardly from the mounting body **13** whereupon the latch element **14** can be projected through the hole **15** in flap **16**. The latch element is thereupon swung about 90° about the pivot pins **35**. When in this position, the side faces **32** of the latch terminals bear firmly against the front wall of the mounting body to secure the latch element in the folded down position shown in FIG. 1 under tension of spring element **23**.

Although I have described a preferred embodiment of my invention, in considerable detail, it will be understood that the description thereof is intended to be illustrative, rather than restrictive, as many details of the structure may be modified or changed without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Accordingly, I do not desire to be restricted to the exact construction described and shown.

I claim:

1. A clasp comprising a box-like body open at its bottom and having a front wall, said front wall having spaced apertures therein, a leaf spring seated against the inside face of said front wall, end portions on said spring disposed normal to the main body portion thereof and extending one through each aperture, a latch element arranged outside the front wall and hingedly connected to the said spring end portions, and means on said latch element to retain the latch element in a plurality of hinged positions under tension of said spring.

2. A clasp comprising a hollow body having a front wall and side and end walls depending from said front wall, said front wall having spaced apertures therein, a leaf spring seated against the inside face of said front wall, end portions of said spring disposed normal to the main body portion thereof and extending one through each aperture, a latch element arranged outside the front wall and hingedly connected to both of said spring end portions, and means on said latch element to retain the latch element in a plurality of pivotal positions under tension of said spring.

3. A clasp comprising a hollow body having a substantially flat front wall, said front wall having spaced apertures therein, a leaf spring disposed on the inside face of said front wall, end portions on said spring extending normal to the main portion thereof and extending

outwardly through said apertures, a latch element hingedly connected to said spring end portions, and means on the latch element to cooperate with the front wall to retain the latch element in a plurality of positions under tension of said spring.

4. The clasp recited in claim 3, in which the spring is bowed away from the front wall in areas immediately adjacent to the end portions thereof.

5. The clasp recited in claim 3, in which the spring has projections thereon to hold it spaced from the front wall.

6. The clasp recited in claim 3, in which the latch element has flat surfaces to coact with the front wall.

7. A clasp comprising a latch element and a body, and spring means retained in said body and having a part thereof extending from said body swingably connected directly to said latch element to resiliently retain the latch element against the body and in a selected one of several positions of adjustments.

8. In a clasp, a spring element for holding a latch in position against a supporting body comprising an elongated strip of metal having its end portions extended in a common direction normal to the general plane of the intermediate portion thereof and having means to accommodate latch-attachment means, and said intermediate portion being bowed in the direction of said end portions in areas adjacent to said end portions for resilient engagement with the supporting body.

9. In the clasp recited in claim 8, in which the intermediate portion is bowed slightly between the bowed end areas thereof.

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EDWARD C. ALLEN, *Primary Examiner.*

RICHARD E. MOORE, *Examiner.*