

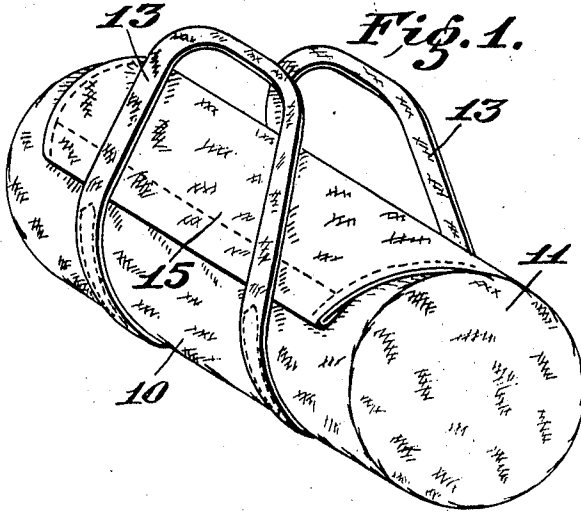
Jan. 4, 1944.

V. BLAKE

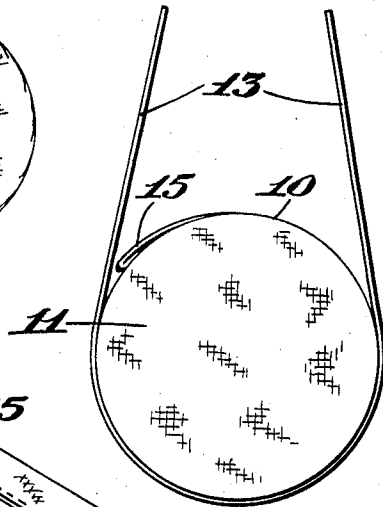
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UTILITY BAG

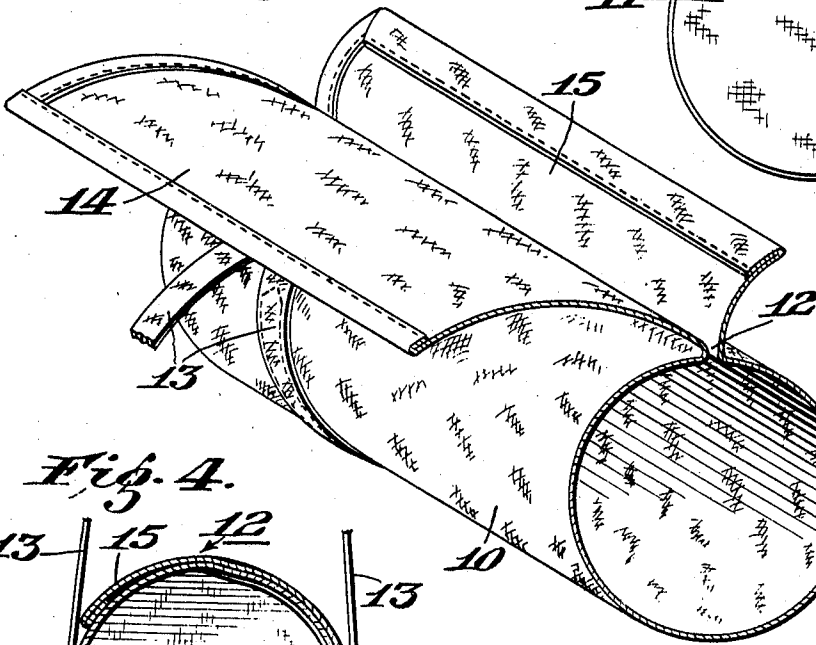
Filed June 18, 1943



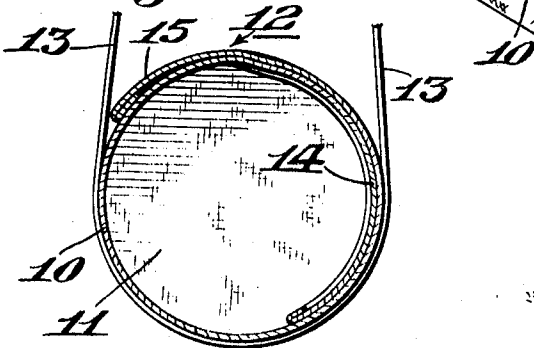
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,338,279

## UTILITY BAG

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Application June 18, 1943, Serial No. 491,283

4 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

This invention relates to general utility bags and, without limitation, more particularly to a frameless or otherwise non-rigid, collapsible and foldable bag structure.

One of the objects of the invention is to produce a practical, non-rigid, general utility bag, constructed of duck, canvas, other textile fabric, or any desirable flexible material, which is readily collapsed to a flattened condition and either folded or rolled neatly into a compact form when not in use; but, in use, is of considerable packing capacity, as well as neat and pleasing in outward appearance.

The principal object is to provide a simple yet very practical and efficient closure for the opening of the bag, in protection of the contents in such a way as to obviate the necessity for using any fastening devices for the closure.

With the foregoing objects in view the invention consists primarily in forming the bag with a relatively narrow, slitted opening and providing a comparatively small, outside flap, extending from one side of the opening and adapted to overlap and amply cover the opening when the bag is in use, but, more importantly, also an inner flap of considerable size, extending from the opposite side of the opening and adapted to be tucked in across the opening and spread smoothly and neatly down between the contents and the overlying bag wall portion for a distance, preferably, at least approximately one-half the extent of the entire bag wall.

An illustrative but non-limiting adaptation of the invention is hereinafter described in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the bag;

Fig. 2 is an end view of the bag;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view, partly in perspective and partly in cross-section, showing more clearly the details of structure and the flap members opened outside of the bag; and,

Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the bag showing the flaps in closed position.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, the numeral 10 designates the body portion of the bag, which, as shown, is of substantially cylindrical form. This is the form in which the bag is generally made, although it may be made in other shapes. In the illustrated structure the bag comprises circular end panels 11, to the annular margins of which are stitched or otherwise secured the side marginal portions of an originally rectangular sheet of material constituting the annular body wall of the bag.

The bag, as above formed, has a narrow slitted opening 12 (see Fig. 3) that extends from end to end of the bag. That is to say, when the body fabric at opposite sides of the opening is stretched taut longitudinally of the bag the opening is restricted substantially as a slit, but due to the non-rigidity and deformability of the bag, the opening 12 is readily widened throughout its length, under pressure of the hands when placing articles, apparel or material in and removing the same from the bag.

When the bag is well filled the contents hold it distended substantially to its designed shape with the opening 12 in close-sided relation. Thus, if the filled or partially filled bag is suspended from a pair of looped strap handles or flexible carrier members 13, which extend under and are there stitched or otherwise secured firmly to the bag, the contents will remain intact as placed within the bag. However, in order to cover the opening 12 and protect the contents of the bag, an inside flap 14 is provided as an extension from the annular bag wall at one longitudinal side of the elongated, slitted opening 12, this flap being of substantial size sufficient to not only amply cover the opening 12 but to extend a considerable distance on the inside of the bag wall beyond said opening, preferably at least approximately one-half the entire extent of the annular bag wall (see Fig. 4).

Prior to filling the bag, the flap 14 is withdrawn from within to the outside of the bag as shown in Fig. 3. After the bag is filled the flap is tucked in across the opening 12 and spread smoothly and neatly down against the adjacent annular wall portion of the bag (see Fig. 4) and between said bag wall portion and the contents of the bag. This not only retains the contents intact in the bag, but the contents are well protected from the outside atmospheric elements and other extraneous matter that might otherwise enter through the slitted opening 12 of the bag.

In order to supplement the protection afforded the contents of the bag by said flap 14, there is provided an outer flap 15 of lesser size, just sufficiently to amply cover the opening 12 and extend a short distance on the outside of the bag beyond the opening. This outer flap 15 has its ornamental as well as protective effect in the bag structure. So, too, by the provision of the inner protective flap 14 of larger proportions, it is unnecessary to provide the outer flap 15 with closure fasteners, thus making for economy in manufacture, as well as practicability and efficiency in

the utilitarian advantages of the structure in its use.

The flap portions 14 and 15 may be provided either as separate pieces of material and attached by stitching or other securing means, or they may be provided as integral extensions of the bag body material. So, too, while the invention is applicable more particularly to a non-rigid, collapsible and foldable bag structure, it is not limited thereto, as the inner protective flap, either alone or in coordinated and cooperative relation to an outer flap, may be provided in a rigid bag structure within the purview of the invention as defined in the appended claims. Also, the shape of the bag may be changed and modified within the spirit of the invention. The invention, therefore, is not limited to the specific form, construction and arrangement shown.

I claim:

1. In a utility bag having a body wall with an elongated, narrow opening, an inner closure-flap of a width equal to substantially the length of the opening and extended from the body wall of the bag at one longitudinal side of said opening and adapted to be tucked in across the opening and spread down over the contents of the bag and against the overlying bag wall to an extent sufficiently to hold it in place, the body wall of the bag at the opposite longitudinal side of said opening of the bag being of a shape adapted to overlie and cover the opening.

2. In a utility bag having a body wall with an elongated, narrow opening, an inner closure-flap of a width equal to substantially the length of

the opening and extended from the body wall of the bag at one longitudinal side of said opening and adapted to be tucked in across the opening and spread down over the contents of the bag and against the overlying bag wall to an extent sufficiently to hold it in place, and an outside closure-flap extended from the body wall of the bag at the opposite longitudinal side of said opening of the bag, said outside closure-flap being adapted to cover the opening and overlap the outside of the body wall for some distance beyond said opening.

3. The bag structure as set forth in claim 1, and the extent of inner closure-flap placement within the bag being equal to at least approximately one-half of the entire extent of the entire bag wall.

4. In a utility bag having a body wall with an elongated, narrow opening, an inner closure-flap of relatively large size extended from the body wall of the bag at one longitudinal side of said opening and adapted to be tucked in across the opening and spread down over the contents of the bag and against the overlying bag wall throughout a substantial extent of the latter, and a relatively smaller outside closure-flap extended from the body wall of the bag at the opposite longitudinal side of said opening of the bag, said outside closure-flap being adapted to cover the opening and overlap the outside of the body wall to the extent of a short distance beyond said opening.

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