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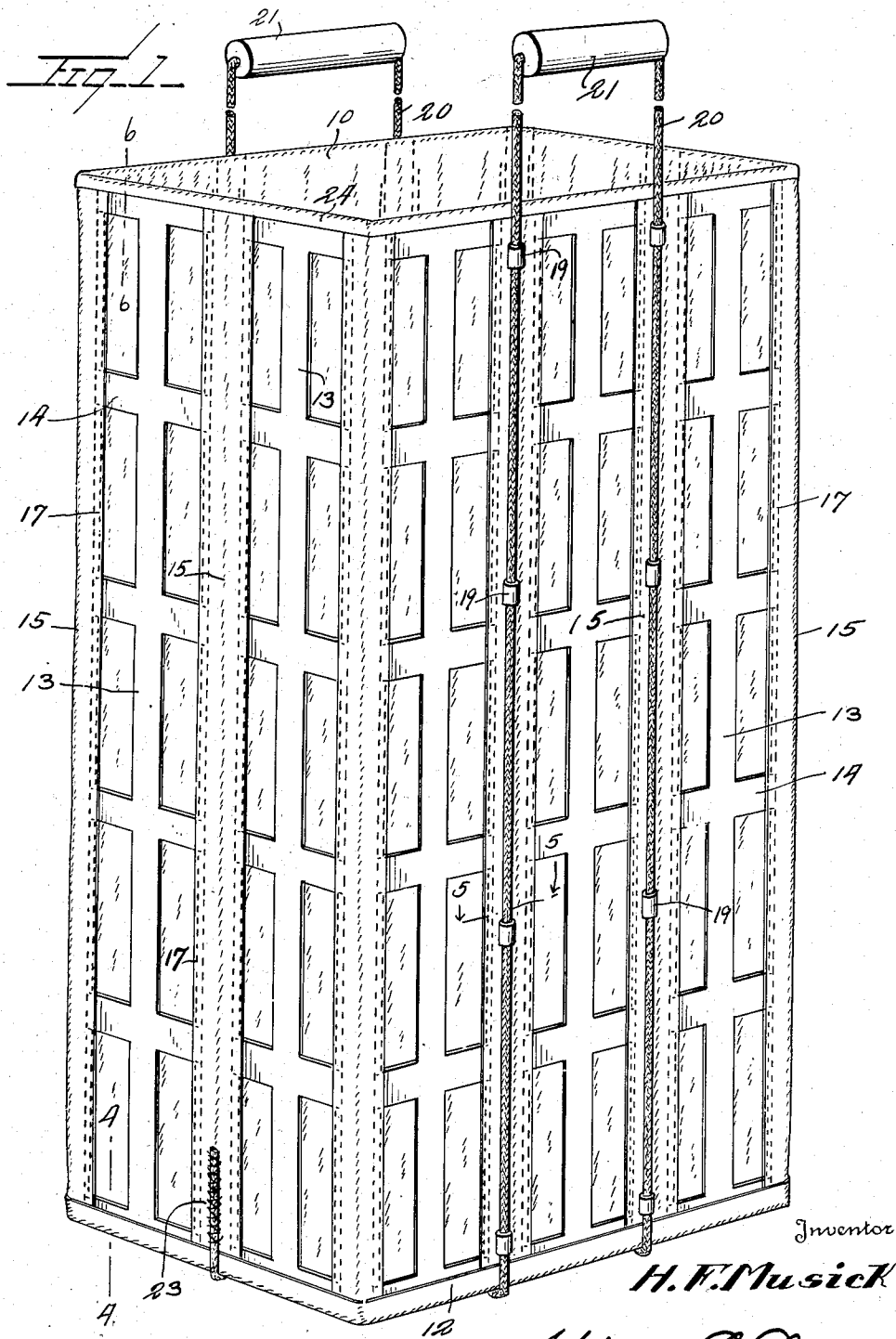
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REINFORCED SHOPPING BAG

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REINFORCED SHOPPING BAG

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8 Claims. (Cl. 150-1.7)

This invention relates to bags and particularly to so-called shopping bags which are ordinarily made of paper supported by cords extending longitudinally of the bag and beneath the bottom thereof and affording handles whereby the bag may be carried. Bags of this character last but a relatively short time because of the fact that the bags are made of paper and not reinforced in a way such as will protect the paper from tearing out.

The general object of the present invention is to provide a shopping bag which is so constructed that it will give long service and thus do away with the necessity of purchasing a shopping bag every time a person goes shopping.

A further object is to provide a shopping bag which can be folded into a small compass and encased in a sheath so that it can be conveniently carried.

A further object is to provide a shopping bag of the character stated which is made of fabric reinforced by metal strips and further reinforced by carrying cords extending longitudinally of the bag and across the bottom thereof, these carrying cords being held in place against the bag by clips at intervals, thus preventing the cords from getting out of adjustment.

A still further object is to form a bag of this character of panels which are flexibly or hingedly connected to each other so as to permit the bag to be folded up.

Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shopping bag constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view thereof.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of the upper portion of the bag, the reinforcing fabric strip being broken away.

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4-4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a section on the line 5-5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a section on the line 6-6 of Figure 1.

Figure 7 is a diagrammatic view showing the bag folded.

Figure 8 shows the carrying case within which the folded bag is disposed.

Referring to these drawings, it will be seen that the bag, when opened, is rectangular in cross-section and that the body of the bag is formed of an inner lining, as it may be termed, of any desired fabric. This body may be formed of a plurality of pieces of fabric sewed together or of one strip of fabric sewed together at the edges. The bot-

tom 11 of the bag is also formed of the same fabric, if desired, the edges of the fabric being formed to provide an upwardly extending margin of "flange" 12 to extend up around the sides of the bag. As shown most clearly in Figure 3, the sides of the bag are reinforced at intervals by metal strips designated generally 13; each strip extending the full length of the bag and each strip being formed to provide laterally projecting arms 14, these arms occurring at the top and bottom of the strip and being evenly distanced along the length of the strip.

Disposed between the metallic reinforcing strips 13 and also extending longitudinally the entire length of the bag are the fabric strips 15. The edges of the fabric strip 15 are formed to enclose at each hem a longitudinally extending reinforcing cord 16, as shown best in Figure 5. I have illustrated in Figures 3 and 5 this reinforcing strip 15 as being stitched at 17 on each side of the cord. I do not wish to be limited to this, however, as the margin of each strip 15 might be turned in under the cord. The cross arms 14 of the strips 13 at their extremities, as shown most clearly in Figure 3, are bent to form beads 18, which tightly embrace these cords 16.

It will be seen that this construction provides a plurality of panels, each panel being stiffened and made relatively rigid by the metallic reinforcing pieces 13; and these panels being operatively hinged to each other by the fabric of the body 12 disposed between the strips and by the fabric reinforcing element 15 also disposed, as it were, between the strips. Thus the bag may be folded upon lines between these panels, as shown most clearly in Figure 7. In the actual embodiment of my invention, there will be ten of these panels so that while the bag is, generally speaking, rectangular in cross section, it may approximate a circle when filled.

Disposed at intervals through the strips 15 and the body 12 or lining of the bag are the eyes 19 of metal, the shanks of these eyes extending through the strips 15 and the lining 12 and being clinched on the inner face of the lining, as shown in Figure 5. Through these eyes extend the carrying cords 20.

These cords 20 extend downward through the eyes 19 to the bottom of the bag, then across the bottom of the bag, as shown in Figure 2, and then upward on the other side of the bag, the cords at their upper ends being provided with the handles 21 of any suitable material, as shown in Figure 1. Extending transversely to the cords 20 and across the bottom of the bag is a reinforcing cord 22

(see Figure 2) the ends of this cord extending upward of each end of the bag and being sewed or otherwise engaged therewith at 23 (see Figure 1). The lining 12 of the bag may be, and preferably is, folded over at the top of the bag, as shown in Figure 6 at 24.

It will be seen that the bag constructed in this manner may be folded upon the lines of the panels, as shown in Figure 7, and that such a bag may be readily inserted within a sheath or carrying case, such as illustrated in Figure 8 and designated 26, this carrying case being of any suitable fabric, being rectangular in cross section and closed at its upper end by a foldable flap 27 and having a handle 28 whereby it may be carried, thus providing a very convenient way for the carriage of the bag. It will be seen that this bag is thoroughly reinforced and supported so that it will wear a long time and will carry a comparatively heavy weight of goods. While I have shown two carrying cords provided with handles, yet it will be obvious that other supporting cords may be provided extending longitudinally of the bag and engaging therewith between the joints of the sections or panels without departing from the spirit of the invention. Thus the bag may be reinforced to any desired extent. The bottom of the bag may be made of any suitable materials for this purpose although preferably a textile fabric is used. By providing eyes 19 for the cords 20, these cords cannot get out of place, sag or tend to shift. As is the case with the ordinary shopping bag, the cords may shift longitudinally and thus one handle be longer than the other handle, making it necessary to adjust the cords.

While preferably I use thin sheet metal for the purpose of forming the reinforcing strips 13, I do not wish to be limited to this as other relatively rigid material might be used for the purpose, such as heavy and tough paper or cardboard.

While I have illustrated certain details of construction and arrangement of parts, I do not wish to be limited thereto as obvious changes may be made therein without changing the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. A shopping bag composed of longitudinally extending rigid panels foldably connected to each other between the panels, a bottom of flexible fabric, and supporting cords extending across the bottom and up on opposite sides thereof, the cords being disposed in line with the folds between the panels.

2. A shopping bag composed of longitudinally extending fabric panels foldably connected to each other between the panels, and a bottom of flexible fabric, substantially rigid reinforcing elements disposed longitudinally of the panels and between the hinged connection of the panels to each other, and supporting cords extending across the bottom and up on opposite sides and having handles and eyes attached to the sides of the bag and through which the cords pass.

3. A shopping bag composed of an inner lining of woven fabric, a plurality of longitudinally extending substantially rigid, stiff reinforcing elements operatively attached to the lining and extending longitudinally of and for the entire length of the bag, said reinforcing elements being spaced from each other to permit the fabric between the reinforcing elements to fold.

4. A shopping bag including a lining of woven fabric having a flexible bottom, longitudinally extending reinforcing elements of substantially rigid and stiff material extending from top to

bottom of the bag, said reinforcing elements being spaced from each other to permit the bag to flex between the reinforcing elements, cords extending longitudinally of the bag, the reinforcing elements being formed at their ends to embrace the cords, and flexible reinforcing strips of textile fabric extending longitudinally of the bag between the reinforcing elements and overlying said cords.

5. A shopping bag including a body of woven fabric having a flexible bottom, longitudinally extending reinforcing elements of substantially stiff and rigid material extending from top to bottom of the bag, said reinforcing elements being spaced from each other to permit the bag to flex between the reinforcing elements, cords extending longitudinally of the bag, the reinforcing elements being formed at intervals to embrace the cords, and flexible reinforcing strips of textile fabric extending longitudinally of the bag between the reinforcing elements and overlying said cords, certain of the cords being extended and having carrying handles.

6. A shopping bag of the character described composed of a body of woven fabric, substantially rigid reinforcing elements extending the full length of the bag and dividing the bag into vertical stiff panels but spaced from each other whereby the material of the bag between the reinforcing elements is flexible to permit the panels to be folded upon each other, the bag being formed of a flexible bottom, and cords extending vertically of the bag, there being a pair of cords between each pair of reinforcing elements, the cords being operatively connected to the reinforcing elements, strips extending across the outer face of the bag, disposed between the reinforcing strips and stitched to the face of the bag on each side of the pair of cords, and oppositely disposed pairs of carrying cords extending across the bottom of the bag and up opposite sides thereof and provided with handles, and eyes connecting said cords to the body of the bag.

7. A shopping bag of the character described composed of longitudinally extending panels of woven fabric, substantially rigid reinforcing elements extending the full length of each panel but spaced from each other whereby the material of the bag between the reinforcing elements is flexible to permit the panels to be folded upon each other, the bag having a flexible bottom, cords extending vertically of the bag there being a pair of cords between each pair of reinforcing elements, the cords being operatively connected to the reinforcing elements, and fabric strips extending over the outer face of the bag between the reinforcing strips and embracing said last named cords, and oppositely disposed pairs of carrying cords extending across the bottom of the bag and up opposite sides thereof and provided with handles, outwardly projecting eyes connecting said cords to the body of the bag, and a cord extending across the bottom of the bag transverse to the carrying cords and extending up opposite sides of the bag between two of the panels and being operatively engaged with the side of the bag.

8. A shopping bag composed of an inner lining of flexible textile fabric, a plurality of vertically disposed sheet metal reinforcing elements extending the full length of the bag and having cross bars at intervals, the cross bars being bent to form beads, cords extending up through the beads, strips of fabric extending upward over the spaces between the cross bars of the reinforcing

ing elements and stitched to the lining to embrace the cords whereby the bag is formed of a plurality of relatively stiff vertically extending panels connected by flexible portions permitting the panels to be folded one upon the other, and carrying cords extending across the bottom and upward on opposite sides of the bag, the carrying cords being disposed over the middle portions of said strips, the carrying cords at their upper ends having handles and clips inserted through the strips and lining and clinched thereto and formed to provide eyes through which the carrying cords pass and cords reenforcing the bottom of the bag and extending at right angles to the carrying cords and upward on each side of the bag and being stitched thereto. 5

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