March 3, 1959 M. BORFUSS 2,875,801

SNAP COMPARTMENT FOR HANDBAGS

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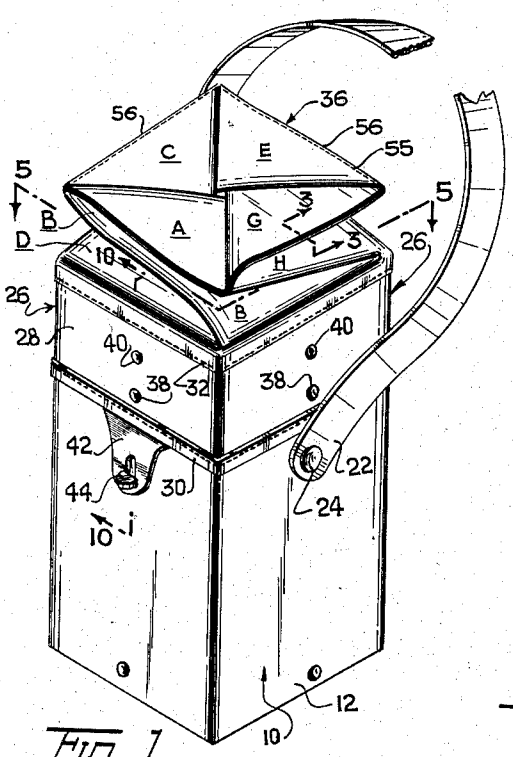


Fig. 1.

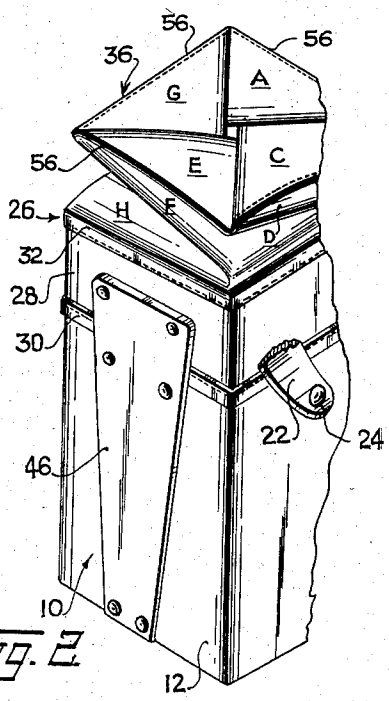


Fig. 2.

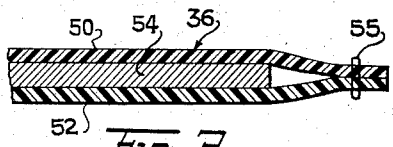


Fig. 3.

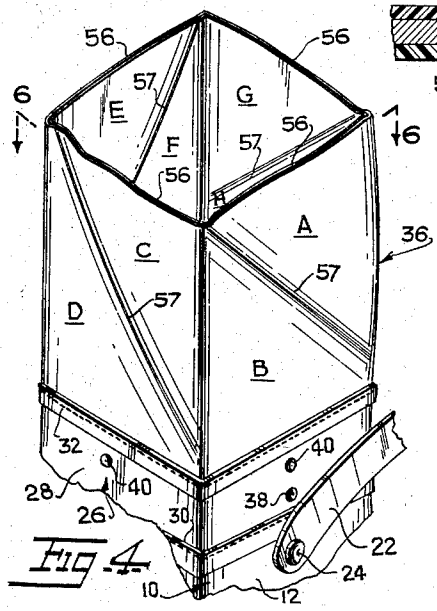


Fig. 4.

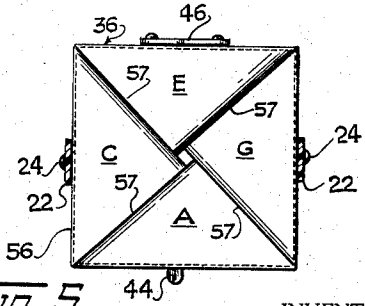


Fig. 5.

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SNAP COMPARTMENT FOR HANDBAGS

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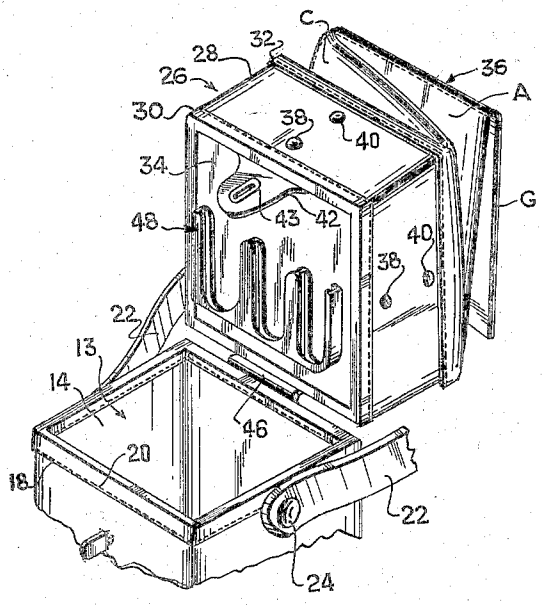


Fig. 9.

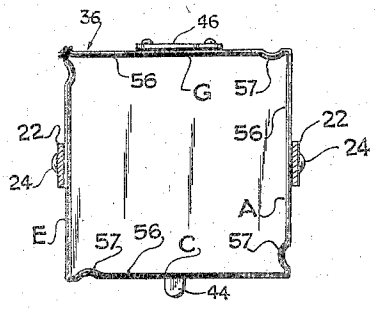


Fig. 6.

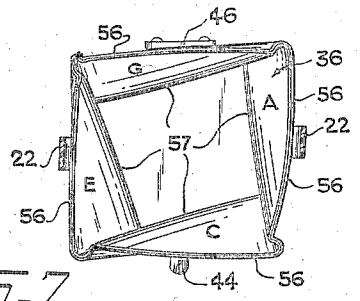


Fig. 7.

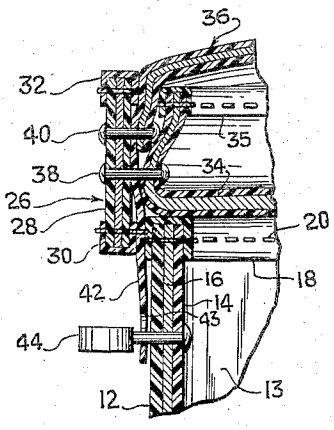


Fig. 10.

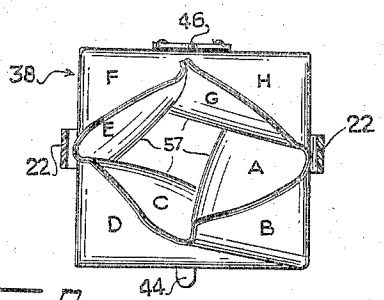


Fig. 8.

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SNAP COMPARTMENT FOR HANDBAGS

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Application April 8, 1957, Serial No. 651,534

3 Claims. (Cl. 150—28)

This invention relates to handbags, and in particular has reference to a handbag having separate compartments, one of which is accessible responsive to unfolding of a plurality of specially shaped flaps or wall portions, in a manner to cause said flaps to snap between open and closed positions.

The main object of the invention is to provide an improved handbag in which there will be a compartment which is accessible without necessity of opening the handbag completely, said access being provided to said compartment without the requirement of the usual snap fasteners, "zippers," or equivalent fastening means.

Another object is to provide a handbag as described in which the closure means of the compartment will constitute the compartment walls themselves.

Another object is to provide a handbag as described in which the snap-open compartment will be attractively designed so as to add measurably to the attractive appearance of the handbag.

Still another object is to provide the snap-open compartment as a portion of the handbag which is bodily pivoted upon the main or body portion of the handbag, so as to constitute a closure for the main or body part of the handbag.

Another object is to provide, on the underside of the swingable auxiliary compartment portion, coin-receiving means which will be conveniently disposed when the handbag is opened.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a handbag according to the invention, with the auxiliary portion closed, parts being broken away.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view of the handbag as seen from the rear thereof.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged, detail sectional view substantially on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of the handbag with the auxiliary portion fully opened.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view on line 5—5 of Fig. 1, the auxiliary portion being fully closed.

Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the handbag as seen from the line 6—6 of Fig. 4, the auxiliary portion being fully open.

Fig. 7 is a view like Fig. 6 in which the walls of the auxiliary portion are beginning their movement to a fully closed position.

Fig. 8 is a view like Fig. 7 in which said walls of the auxiliary portion have been moved further toward a closed position.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view of Fig. 1 showing the handbag in open position.

Fig. 10 is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken on the line 10—10 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the handbag 10 includes an upwardly opening, rectangular main or body portion 12 defining (Fig. 9) a main compartment 13 for one's wallet, loose change, etc.

Referring to Fig. 10, preferably the walls of the main portion are laminated, comprising outer layers 12, 14 of plastic between which a stiffening layer 16 of cardboard or other fibrous material is cemented. At the upper end of the body portion, a channeled binding 18 of flexible plastic or the like is stitched at 20 to the laminations of the walls, and extends through the full periphery of the open upper end of the body portion, as shown in Fig. 9.

The carrying strap 22 is attached by rivets 24 to opposite sides of the handbag, in any suitable manner.

In this connection, the bottom of the body portion may also be formed with a binding, separately from the side walls of the body portion, if desired.

Designated generally at 26 is an auxiliary, compartment-forming portion, the walls of which are also of laminated formation in a preferred embodiment. Referring to Fig. 10, a continuous side wall 28, laminated similarly to the walls of the body portion (Fig. 10) is provided at its top and bottom edges with bindings 32, 30 stitched in place.

A bottom wall 34 of the auxiliary portion 26 is also of laminated formation, and is of cupped shape, with a binding 35 extending through its periphery (Fig. 10). A closure 36 of the auxiliary portion is also of laminated formation, in a manner to be described hereinafter. At the several sides of the auxiliary compartment, vertically spaced rivets 38, 40 are extended through the side wall 28 and through the marginal portions of the bottom wall 34 and top wall 36 respectively (see Fig. 10).

A coin receiver generally designated 48 is per se conventional, and is secured to the underside of the bottom wall 34 as shown in Fig. 9.

The auxiliary portion is pivoted upon the body portion of the handbag, through the provision of an elongated hinge strip 46 (Fig. 2) riveted to the back walls of the auxiliary and main portions of the handbag. Thus, when the auxiliary portion is swung upwardly, the coin holder 48 is exposed, and also, access to the main compartment 13 is provided.

The auxiliary portion thus constitutes a cover for the main compartment 13 and is normally held in closed position through the provision of a depending, flexible plastic tongue 42 secured to the inner surface of the front wall of the auxiliary portion by means of one of the rivets 38 and the stitching of the lower binding 30. The depending tongue 42 has a grommet 43 of slot-like form adapted to receive the pivoted latching head 44 which can be turned at right angles to the length of the slotted grommet 43 after extension therethrough in the usual manner (Fig. 10). Other means of fastening the auxiliary portion 26 in closed position can, of course, be employed.

As shown in Fig. 3, the top wall or closure 36 is of laminated formation, including outer laminations 50, 52 of a comparatively stiff but nevertheless somewhat flexible plastic, between which a stiffener 54 is disposed. The stiffener may terminate slightly inwardly from the outer edges of the top wall, with stitching being applied to the marginally contacting laminations 50, 52, as shown at 55 in Figs. 1 and 3.

Since the auxiliary compartment is of box-like, upwardly opening form, it will be seen that it is adapted to hold such articles as may be used with considerable frequency, as for example lipstick, cigarettes, matches, etc. Access is provided to these articles without necessity of operating the latch 44 and swinging the auxiliary

compartment to open positions. Such access is provided by unfolding the top wall **36** from its normally folded position of Fig. 1 to its fully open position of Fig. 4.

The particular folds of the top wall are of importance. In this connection, the wall **36** has hereinbefore been designated as a top wall, since it does extend horizontally across the top of the auxiliary compartment as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in effect closing the auxiliary compartment at its top. Nevertheless, when the top wall is unfolded as in Fig. 4, it then becomes, in effect, a continuous side wall of substantial height. Accordingly, the term "top wall, is used merely to provide a ready reference to the wall **36** and in actuality said wall **36** is a combined top and side wall. The use of the term "top wall' accordingly is not to be deemed restrictive, but is merely a ready reference for the wall, which might be called with equal aptness a peripherally extending closure of the auxiliary compartment forming an extension of the side wall of said compartment.

In any event, the particular manner in which the closure **36** folds is of importance. Referring to Fig. 4, the closure when opened is rectangular, so as to provide thereon a plurality of walls constituting extensions of the walls of the body part of the auxiliary portion. The several walls of the closure **36** have been designated at **56** and each has a fold line **57** extending diagonally thereof from one of its upper corners to a location adjacent the opposite one of its lower corners. The fold line **57**, at its lower end, terminates in actuality a short distance above the adjacent lower corner of the wall **56**.

The provision of the diagonally extending fold line **57** of each wall **56** defines substantially triangular panels on each wall **56**. Thus, forming one wall are the panels A, B; forming a second wall, the panels C, D; a third wall, the panels E, F; and a fourth wall, the panels G, H.

Assuming that the closure **56** is fully unfolded, access is provided to the interior of the portion **26** with ease, as will be readily apparent from Fig. 4 and from Fig. 6. However, if one desires to close the portion **26**, one exerts a pressure at the top of closure **36** tending to turn the top clockwise in Fig. 7. As a result, the several walls **56** at the upper ends thereof begin to move in a clockwise direction from the Fig. 6 to the Fig. 7 positions thereof. Continued turning movement causes the fold lines **57** to deepen, so that the several portions now have the appearance shown in Fig. 8. Still further movement will cause the panels to move into a fully folded, flattened condition shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and also in Fig. 5, in which the center opening defined between the panels is progressively reduced so as to become completely closed or at least very small. This closes the compartment of the auxiliary portion **28**. Opening of the auxiliary compartment is effected in the same manner.

It has been found in practice that in a full-size, working embodiment of the invention, there is a snap action resulting, apparently, either from the inherent resiliency of the plastics used, from the pre-creasing of the fold lines **57** tending to fold each adjacent panels A, B, or C, D, etc., into superposed relation, or from a combination of these actions. In any event, the snap action does result, responsive to turning of the top portion of the closure **36** from its Fig. 6 to its Fig. 7, and then to its Fig. 8 position.

In this way, the auxiliary compartment is closed without the necessity of any snaps or other fastener means, and access is readily provided thereto whenever desired, providing a novel type of closure for a handbag.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise construction herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. In a handbag, container means, constituting a main compartment, an auxiliary compartment with an open top, and a closure formed as a foldable wall connected to and extending peripherally of the auxiliary compartment and adapted to be folded into a position closing said open top, said foldable wall being formed integrally with the auxiliary compartment and being of a stiff material, the foldable wall comprising a rectangular series of wall portions each of which has a pre-creased fold line, said fold lines extending diagonally of their respective wall portions, forming each wall portion into a pair of adjacent triangular panels connected along the fold line, said foldable wall, in the closing position thereof, being arranged with corresponding panels of the several wall portions in overlapping relation, said panels overlapping each over approximately half the area of the next adjacent panel, in an arrangement such as to locate the several fold lines in positions radiating from the center of the closure to the several corners thereof.

2. A substantially rectangular-shaped compartmented handbag comprising a rectangular-shaped body having a main bag compartment with bottom and side walls and being open at the top, an auxiliary bag compartment hinged to said main bag compartment and having bottom and side walls and being open at the top, the bottom wall of the auxiliary bag compartment constituting a closure for the open top of the main bag compartment, and flaps on the auxiliary bag compartment foldable flatwise forming a closure for the open top of the auxiliary compartment and means for releasably holding the auxiliary bag compartment in closing position.

3. A substantially rectangular-shaped compartmented handbag comprising a rectangular-shaped body with a main bag compartment with bottom and side walls and being open at the top, an auxiliary bag compartment hinged to said main bag compartment and having bottom and side walls and being open at the top, the bottom wall of the auxiliary bag compartment constituting a closure for the open top of the main bag compartment, and flaps on the auxiliary bag compartment foldable flatwise forming a closure for the open top of the auxiliary compartment and means for releasably holding the auxiliary bag compartment in closing position, the bottom face of the bottom wall of the auxiliary compartment serving as a support for a coin holder.

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