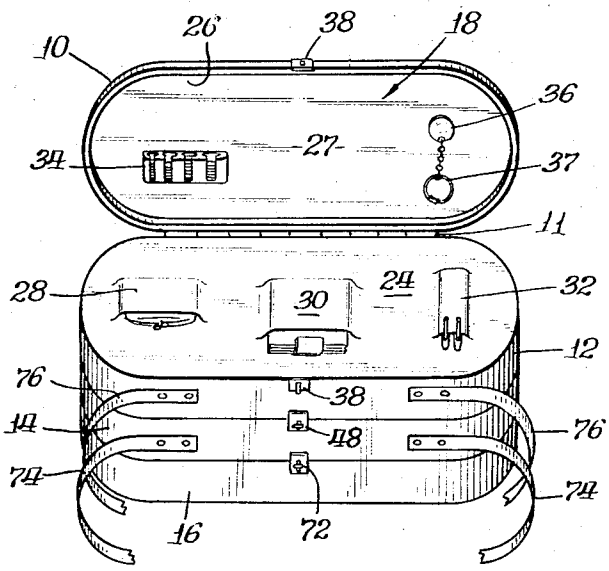
Nov. 14, 1967 E. VAUGHAN 3,352,391

WOMEN'S HANDBAGS

Filed Aug. 4, 1965

Fig. 1.



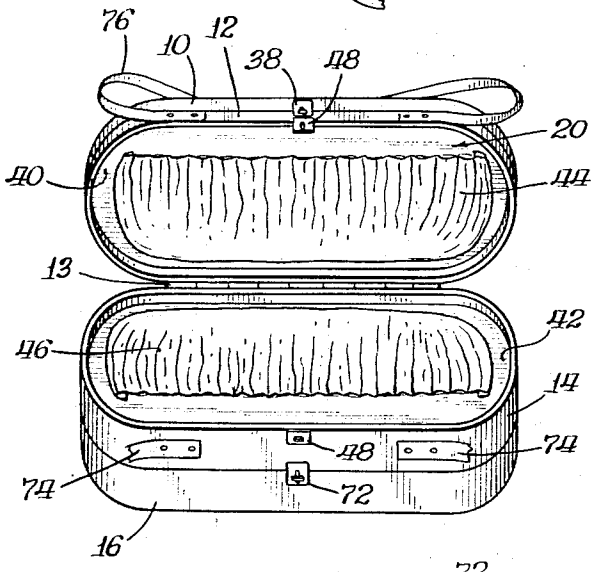


Fig. 2.

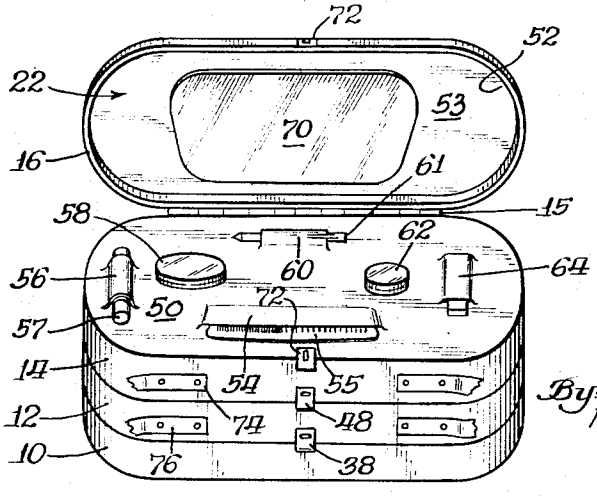


Fig. 3.

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WOMEN'S HANDBAGS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A woman's handbag is generally a catch-all wherein items are difficult to locate. In the present arrangement, the handbag is made in compartments with each compartment being individually accessible and designed to carry related accessories in a neat, orderly and readily accessible arrangement.

This invention relates to women's handbags.

One of the objects of this invention is the provision of a woman's handbag having separately accessible compartments each of which can be separately opened without opening any other compartment.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a handbag wherein commonly carried items of one type are neatly accessible without exposing other commonly carried items of an unrelated type, whereby all such items will be maintained neat and orderly rather than in a jumbled heap as is commonly the case with prior art handbags. For example, one compartment may be arranged to carry such items as wallet, purse, coins, pen and pencil, car keys or other often used articles, another compartment may be arranged to carry personal items, as for make-up, while the third compartment may be arranged to carry cards, papers, identification, and the like.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the handbag showing one of the several compartments open and the other compartments closed and latched.

FIGURE 2 is a view similar to FIGURE 1 but showing the preferred construction of the central compartment, and

FIGURE 3 is a view similar to FIGURES 1 and 2 but with the handbag turned over from its position of FIGURE 1 and illustrating the third compartment in its open position while the first and central compartments are closed and latched.

Referring now to the drawing, it is seen that the handbag comprises a plurality of sections **10**, **12**, **14** and **16**. Section **10** is pivotally connected to section **12** by means of a hinge **11**. Section **12** is pivotally connected to section **14** by means of a hinge **13**. Section **14** is pivotally connected to section **16** by means of a hinge **15**. While a continuous, piano-type hinge is illustrated, it will be understood that other types may be used if desired.

The space between sections **10** and **12** form a compartment **18**; the space between sections **12** and **14** form a compartment **20**, while the space between sections **14** and **15** form a compartment **22**.

As seen in FIGURE 1, the bag section **12** is provided with a planar surface **24** which defines one side of compartment **18**. Section **10** is provided with a recess **26** terminating in a flat surface **27**, the surfaces **24** and **27** being spaced from each other when the bag section **10** is closed and latched to the bag section **12**.

Compartment **18** preferably contains, in relatively accessible position, that group of items which are commonly necessary when the handbag is carried outside of the home. For example, a plastic purse pocket **28** may be secured to the surface **24** and a small coin purse may be inserted thereinto. There may similarly be provided a wallet

pocket **30** secured to the surface **24** and into which a wallet may be inserted. There may also be provided a pocket **32** secured to the surface **24** for carrying a pen and pencil set or the like. The various pockets may be cemented, riveted, sewn, or secured in any other manner to the compartment surfaces. They may be made of plastic or any other suitable material. The important point is that separate facilities are provided for keeping personal items neatly in place yet readily accessible. Preferably secured to the surface **27** of section **10** is a coin server **34** wherein pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters may be separately kept and readily accessible. Also secured to the surface **27** is a magnetic key holder **36** wherein one portion of the magnet is secured to the surface and the other detachable portion of the magnet may be provided with a key ring indicated at **37**. Sections **10** and **12** may be secured in closed position by a conventional clasp **38**. Other items, similar to those enumerated above, may be provided for in this compartment if so desired.

Referring now to FIGURE 2, which shows the central compartment latched shut, it is seen that this central compartment is formed of recesses **40** and **42** in bag sections **12** and **14**, respectively. Each of the recesses **40** and **42** may be provided with ruffled elasticised pockets **44** and **46** for holding any miscellaneous items such as bills, papers, documents, cards, and the like. It is possible, therefore, for a user of the handbag to have access to such papers or documents without the necessity of exposing any other of the contents of the handbag, including the money and keys of compartment **18**. Similarly, it is possible for the user to have access to keys, a pencil, or money, without exposing papers or documents to the danger of loss. Sections **12** and **14** may be secured in closed position by means of a conventional latch or clasp **48**.

Referring now to FIGURE 3, it is seen that the bag has been completely inverted so that section **10** is lowermost while section **16** is uppermost. In this figure, sections **14** and **16** are shown in open position exposing compartment **22**. The compartment **22** is defined by a planar surface **50** formed in handbag section **14** and defining the bottom of recess **42** of compartment **20**. It is further defined by a recess **52** which terminates in a planar surface **53**. Compartment **22** preferably will carry items commonly used for make-up purposes and which are completely accessible without exposing other items carried in the handbag to the danger of loss. For example, there may be provided a pocket **54** secured as desired to surface **50** for carrying a comb **55**. Similarly, a ring **56** may be secured to surface **50** for the purpose of holding in place a tube of lipstick **57**. Similarly, a powder case **58** may be cemented or otherwise secured to the surface **50**. said powder case being the type wherein powder cakes may be replaced or wherein loose powder may be added as required. Another ring **60** may be secured to the surface **50** for the purpose of holding an eyebrow pencil or the like. Also secured to the surface **50** may be an eye-shadow creme case **62** which may be refilled as necessary, and also a pocket **64** in which may be inserted a mascara case. Preferably secured to the surface **53** is a mirror **70**. Sections **14** and **16** may be secured in closed position by means of a convention latch or clasp **72**.

The handbag sections **12** and **14** may be provided with a pair of strap handles **74** and **76** which have their terminal ends riveted or otherwise secured to adjacent sections of the handbag, thereby providing carrying means therefor.

The description of the items which are contained in each of the compartments are not intended to be restrictive, but are merely suggestive of a logical breakdown into the various classes of items which are commonly carried by women in their handbags. The important thing is that certain types of items may be utilized or removed from

the handbag without exposing other items, and without having to fish through a jumble of items in order to find any particular one.

I claim:

1. A woman's handbag comprising: a plurality of bag sections, each of said sections having a substantially planar surface on one side thereof and a recess in the other side thereof, two of said sections being hinged together with the recesses mutually facing each other, and at least one other section being hinged to one of said two sections with the recess of said other section facing the planar surface of said one section, and clasp means for releasably latching adjacent sections in closed position.

2. A woman's handbag comprising: a plurality of bag sections, each of said sections having a substantially planar surface on one side thereof and a recess on the other side thereof, two of said sections being hinged together with the recesses mutually facing each other to form a compartment, a pocket in each recess forming said compartment and extending across substantially the full length of the respective recess, a third bag section pivotally secured to one of said first two bag sections and having a recess therein which when in closed position forms a second compartment, individual means in said second compartment for holding individual cosmetic items, and a fourth bag section pivotally secured to the other of said first bag sections and having a recess, when in closed position, forms a third compartment, and individual means in said third compartment for holding individual personal items.

3. A woman's handbag comprising a plurality of sections, each of said sections having a substantially planar surface on one side thereof and a recess in the other side thereof, two of said sections being hinged together with the recesses mutually facing each other, and at least one other section being hinged to one of said two sections with the recess of said other section facing the planar surface of said one section, clasp means for releaseably latching adjacent sections in closed position, individual means in one of said sections for holding respectively individual cosmetic items, and individual means in another of said sections for holding respectively individual personal items.

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