June 19, 1956 T. L. ENGLAND 2,750,642

CLASP

Filed Sept. 19, 1952

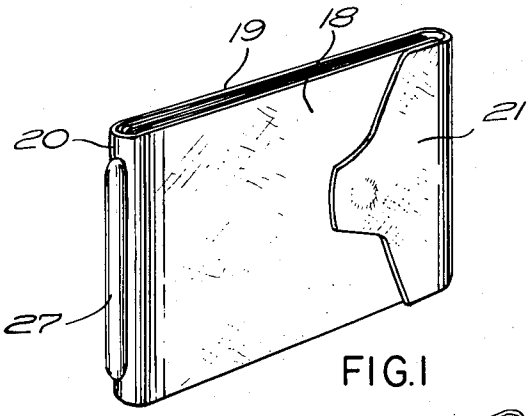


FIG. 1

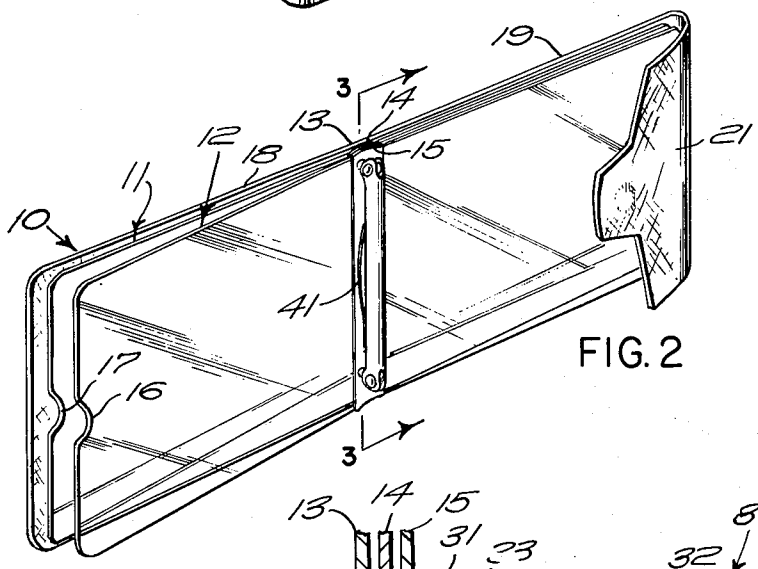


FIG. 2

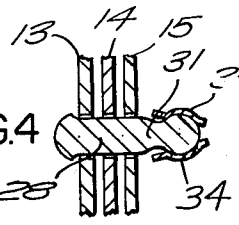


FIG. 4

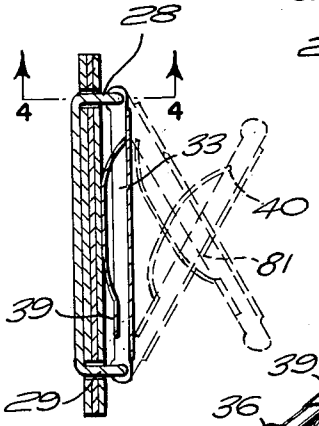


FIG. 3

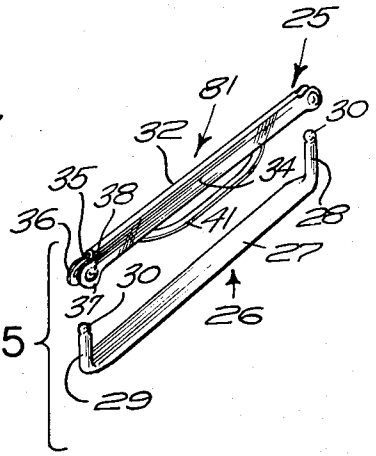


FIG. 5

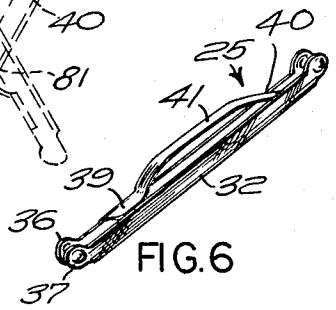


FIG. 6

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CLASP

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—153)

This invention relates to a pocket case of the type generally referred to as a billfold but designed more particularly for holding cards.

An object of the invention is to provide a clasp which will hold assembled a plurality of folded members in desired relationship.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device by which the members may be easily assembled and retained in place.

Another object of the invention is to provide a holding device which may be easily separated for the addition or subtraction of certain members should it be desired to increase or decrease the size of the case.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device which may be detached at either of its ends and serve in a hinge fashion to remain connected at one of its ends should occasion so require.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the pocket case closed;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the pocket case in open position;

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2 showing in dotted lines alternate positions of the holding device;

Figure 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a perspective view in exploded relation of the clasp which holds the assembly of card containers together;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the under side of one of the parts of the clasp.

In proceeding with this invention, I have provided a plurality of members each folded once upon itself with the units in nesting relation and the folds of the units contiguous. In order to hold these folds in continguous relation during opening and closing of the case, I have provided a clasp consisting of a bar extending along the outer surface of the fold of the outer unit with arms at its ends projecting through the folds of all of the units and with these arms assembled with a keeper which may be detached from either or both of its ends and when detached at one end may swing about the attached other end in a hinging fashion.

With reference to the drawings, I have illustrated three units **10**, **11**, and **12**, which are folded intermediate their ends as at **13**, **14**, and **15**, each inner one having a nesting relation with the next outer one. The inner units **11** and **12** comprise transparent pockets **16** and **17** at each end into which cards may be slid so that they may be viewed through the transparent walls of the units. The outer unit **10** is usually of leather having when folded a front wall **18** and a back wall **19** extending from the fold **20**. The front wall **18** is equipped with a snap fastener, while the flap **21** which is secured to the end

distant from the fold of the back wall **19** extends over the front wall **18** and is equipped with the companion portion of the snap fastener to engage with the portion on the wall **18** and serve to clasp the unit in folded position as shown in Figure 1.

In order to hold the units **10**, **11** and **12** assembled along their fold lines **13**, **14**, and **15**, I have provided a clasp which is shown in exploded relation in Figure 5 and designated generally **25**. One portion **26** of this clasp comprises a bar **27** which extends along the outer fold **20** of the unit **10**, while arms **28** and **29** which are usually formed integral with the bar **27** extend at right angles thereto passing through the folds **13**, **14**, and **15** as shown in Figure 4 with the end of the arm fashioned in the form of a ball **30** having a narrowed neck portion **31**. The bar **27** is laterally arched throughout its length so that the same will be stiffened. A keeper designated generally **81** comprises a piece of sheet stock folded into generally channel shape providing a back wall **32** and opposite side walls **33** and **34**. These walls are spaced at their ends as at **35** and the portions projecting beyond the ends of the back wall **32** are rounded and enlarged slightly providing gripping jaws **36** and **37** which are outwardly deflected at **38** to provide a portion of a sphere of substantially the same radius as the ball **30**. The spacing **35** of these portions **36** and **37** permits of sufficient resilience between them so that these portions may be snapped into engagement with the ball by applying pressure until the ball sets in the outwardly deflected portions **38** as may be seen in Figure 4. A resilient arm **41** also formed as one piece with the wall **33** is folded across the space between the walls as at **39** and is of a width dimension so that its end **40** will extend between the walls **33** and **34** but will bulge outwardly beyond the walls at **41** to apply pressure to the units **11** and **12**, forcing them against the unit **10** which is backed up by the bar **27**.

As I have shown in Figure 3, one of the ends of the keeper **81** may be detached from the arm **28** and swung about the arm **29** or the keeper may be detached from the arm **29** and swung about the arm **28** both as shown in dotted lines in Figure 3. It will, of course, be apparent that both ends of the keeper may be detached for the removal of one of the units such as **12** or the addition of a unit similar to the unit **12** by removing the same from the arms, or if addition to a unit is desired by placing the same on the arms. By this arrangement of complete detachment of the bar **27** and the keeper **81**, assembly may be had very quickly either at the time of initial forming of the case by the manufacturer or by the user should he desire to insert or remove the card-holding units as may frequently occur.

I claim:

1. A clasp for fastening sheets of material comprising a generally U-shaped member having two upstanding arms extending from a support means, said arms terminating in ball-shaped studs, a keeper generally channel shaped in cross section providing walls and a connecting bridge, said walls projecting lengthwise beyond the bridge thereof forming resilient end portions, each of said end portions adapted to grasp the ball-shaped studs, either of said studs selectively serving as a hinge to swing the keeper about one end when detached at its opposite end.

2. A clasp as in claim 1 wherein the resilient end portions are bulged outwardly to form a portion of a sphere.

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