

May 28, 1940.

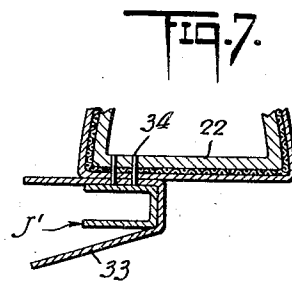
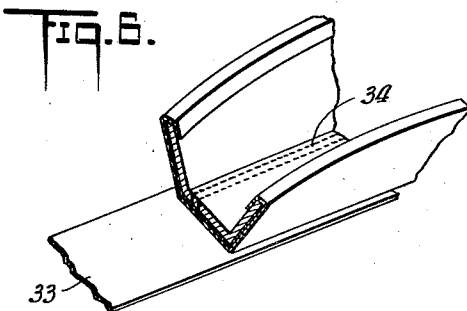
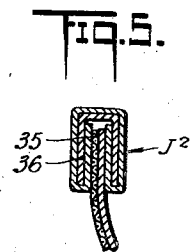
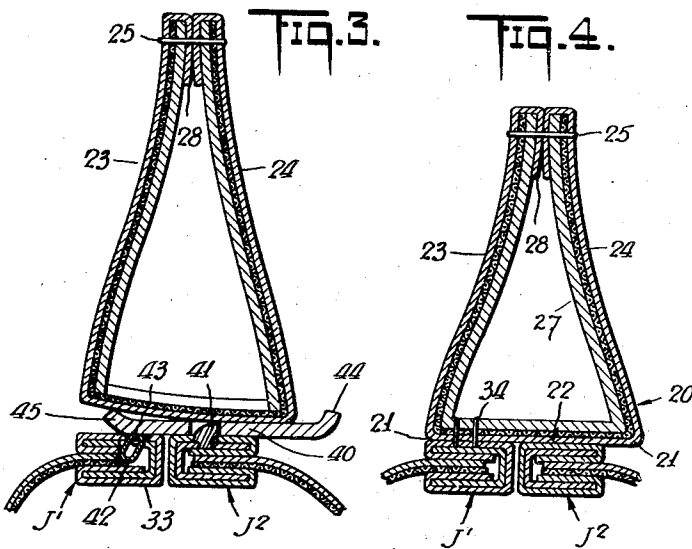
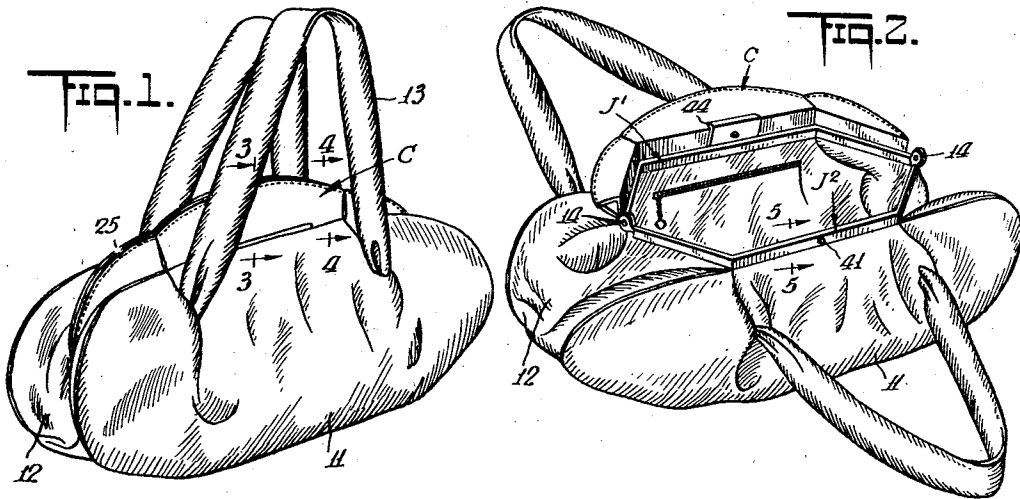
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2,202,651

HANDBAG

Filed March 25, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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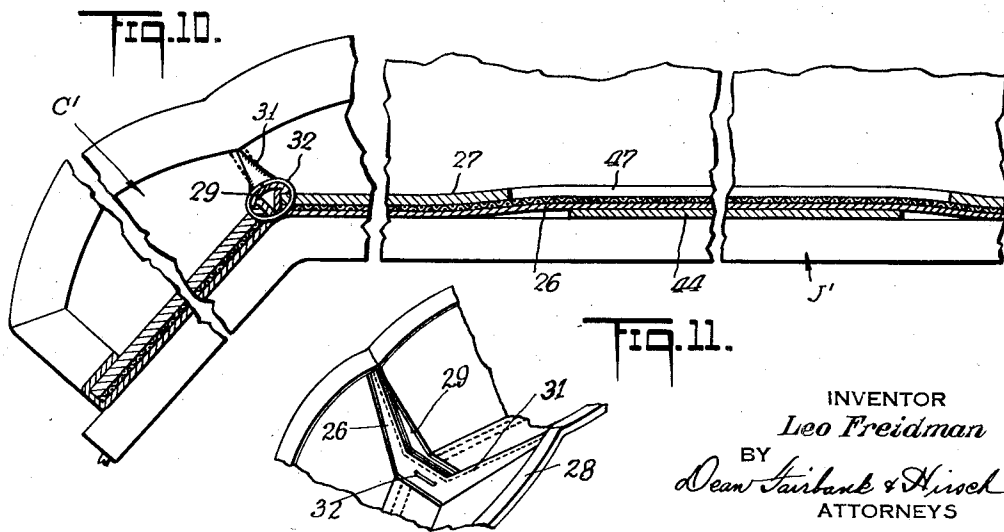
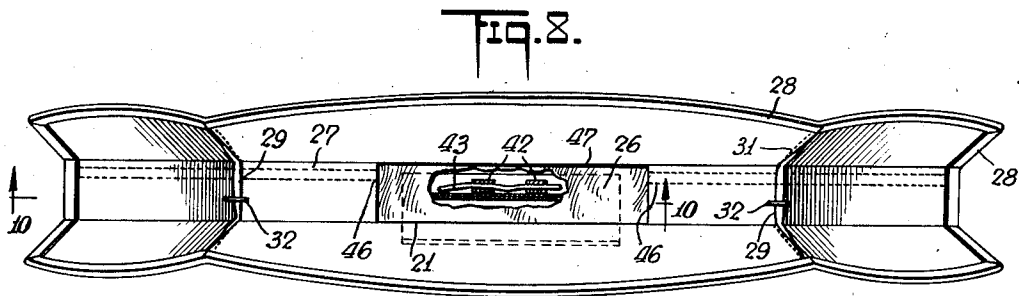
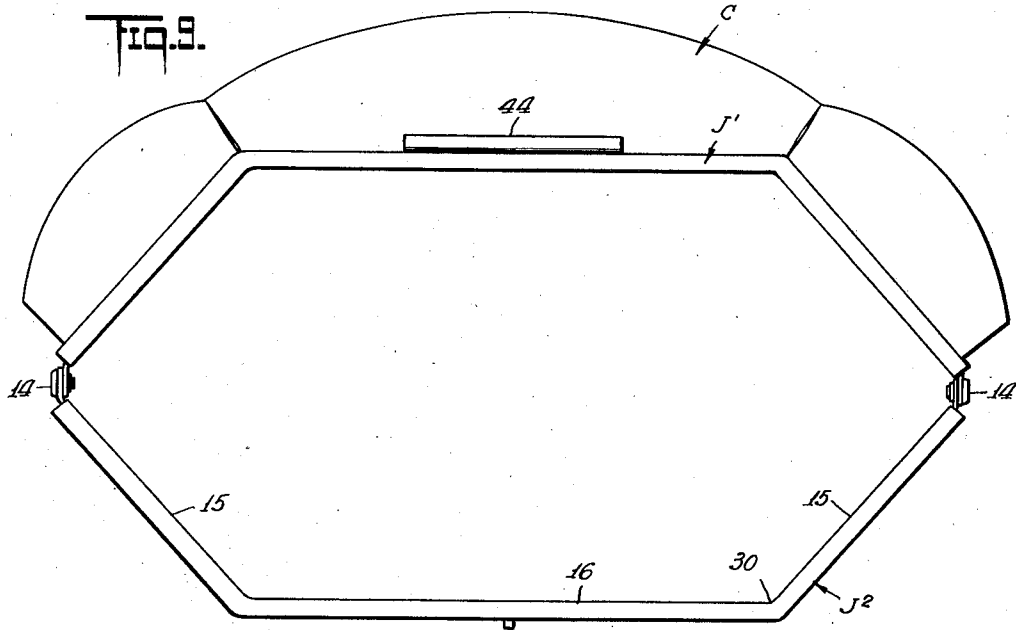
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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2,202,651

HANDBAG

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Application March 25, 1940, Serial No. 325,715

9 Claims. (Cl. 150—29)

The present invention relates to handbags and more especially to the frame structures thereof.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide a handbag the entire structure of which including the exposed frame portion thereof is of supple character, thereby to attain a novel and ornamental tailored effect, and which is devoid of wooden, plastic or metal parts other than the substantially conventional light hinged metal frame.

Another object is to provide a bag frame of the above type the clasp of which is substantially concealed and enclosed by the supple structure, but yet is readily accessible for operation, and in which the supple frame portion while securely assembled is yet in unobtrusive relation with respect to the operation of the clasp.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown one of various possible embodiments of the several features of the invention:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the bag in closed position,

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the bag in open position,

Fig. 3 is a view in transverse section on an enlarged scale taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 5 is a detailed sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 2,

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view indicating one step in the assembly of the crest structure of the frame,

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary transverse cross-section showing a step in the assembly of the frame,

Fig. 8 is a plan view of the frame crest with parts broken away, showing another step in the assembly thereof,

Fig. 9 is a plan view of the opened frame,

Fig. 10 is a view in longitudinal cross-section on a larger scale taken along the line 10—10 of Fig. 8 and

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary perspective view of a detail of the partly made crest structure.

Referring now to the drawings, there is shown a flexible handbag structure, with side walls 11, infolded end walls 12, flexible handles 13 and a conventional metal frame structure that comprises two jaws J^1 and J^2 of channel bar stock, hinged together at their ends as at 14. Illustratively, each of the jaws has lateral wings 15 which are shown in the drawings as extending at an obtuse angle relative to the main longitudinal portion 16 rigid with said wings.

According to the present invention, the frame is

ornamented with a flexible crest structure affixed thereto, which desirably is of the same flexible fabric as the body of the bag, and harmonizes with the general lines and contour thereof.

In the particular embodiment shown, the crest structure is made of a unitary blank 20 of fabric, folded and stitched to a wedge shape as shown. Desirably the blank is longitudinally folded along the fold lines 21 to determine a base 22 and a pair of side walls 23 and 24 which are stitched together at 25 at their outer edges, the length of the base being affixed to one of the frame jaws J^1 and desirably extending the entire length thereof from hinge to hinge.

In a desirable particular specific construction, the crest fabric is reinforced by a ply of cloth 26 over which is superposed a ply of flexible fiber 27. The marginal edge of the covering fabric is folded inward as at 28 over the edges of the fiber backing and desirably cemented thereto, to afford a unitary structure.

Darts 29 are preferably cut out of the fiber backing at the regions corresponding to the angles of corners 30 between the wings 15 and the main length 16 of the jaw J^1 and the material of the exposed cloth backing 26 and of the fabric covering 22 at opposite sides of the dart is stitched together by a transverse line of stitching 31 and desirably also by a staple 32, so that the crest piece is formed with wings C^1 extending at the same angle to the main length as do the wings of the jaw J^1 to which it is to be applied.

While the crest piece may be applied to the jaw frame by any of various means, it is preferable to stitch the same in place with respect to the conventional fabric covering 33 that is snugly wrapped over the frame jaw. For this purpose, it is desirable to connect by stitching 34, the base of the crest piece to the frame covering strip 33 before such strip is applied to the frame jaw. The parts are preferably stitched together while the crest structure is still in a continuous length, and before it has been folded and transversely stitched to form the wings shown in Figs. 10 and 11. To this end it is desirable first to attach the frame jaw covering strip 33 upon the crest by rubber cement, so that it will not shift as the line of stitching 34 is applied. Thereupon, the transverse stitching operation is performed on the crest at 31 and finally the crest is applied to the frame jaw J^1 , as best shown in Fig. 7, by folding the frame covering strip 33 about and tucking the free edges thereof inward into the channel in conventional manner. The structure of the bag

proper is then readily introduced at its edges 35 between the inturned cover margins 36 in the channel sides of the jaw which is then compressed to clamp the fabric of the bag in place according to usual practice. The crest piece is completed by the line of stitching 25 at the outer registering edges thereof.

Desirably, the clasp for the bag is in the form of a flat metal plate 40 centrally interposed between the crest C and the associated frame jaw J' and coacting with a conventional latch 41 affixed in the opposite jaw J² of the frame. For resiliently hinging the latch plate to the jaw J', a pair of hinge eyes 42 may be soldered, brazed or welded rigidly to the plate 40 and these extend through corresponding apertures in the upper channel wall of the jaw and through the covering fabric 33 thereof. A pintle pin 43 extends through the pintle eyes within the channel of the jaw and securely mounts the plate in position and yet permits resilient hinging movement thereof, the pin being curved and by its spring action, urging the plate to latching position. The plate 40 is preferably flanged upward at its forward end as at 44 for facility of operation, and is also desirably turned up at its rear edge 45 for easy rolling or pivoting action, without tending to cut into the fabric that it engages.

As shown in the drawings, the line of stitching 30 which connects the base of the crest to the frame jaw is interrupted at 46 to leave an unobstructed sheath between the frame jaw and the crest for accommodating the latching plate. Moreover, the fiber backing of the crest base is cut away at 35 47 at its median portion, that is, at the region where the latch plate is located, so as to eliminate any obstruction to the free hinging movement of the latch due to the stiffness of any fiber thereat.

As shown in the drawings, the base of the crest 40 is preferably of width such that the upper edge of the crest extends substantially in the plane of contact of the closed frame, the base 22 thus overhanging the inner edge of the frame jaw by a substantial width so that when the frame is in closed position, as best shown in Fig. 4, the crest 45 will extend symmetrically with respect to the sides of the bag and will conform with the general angle of convergence of the bag sides.

The crest, constructed as shown is substantially 50 ly as supple and flexible as the bag itself and imparts to the bag the soft tailored appearance and feel required by the dictates of fashion. The rigid part of the frame structure is completely concealed and the protruding edge 44 of the latch 55 plate is the only metal part that shows and this is in an unobtrusive position, where it is completely framed front and back by the flexible fabric structure of the bag and its crest. Of course, if desired, the latch plate itself could be 60 covered with fabric.

It is seen that the ornamental crest of the frame is devoid of any rigid, wooden, plastic or metal parts, and that the production thereof in any of multitudinous possible designs and its assembly to the frame are effected entirely by cutting and needle work and at relatively low cost. 65 The expense for molds or dies or metal work of any kind is avoided.

The bag shown in the drawings may be widely 70 varied as to shape of body structure and shape of frame, which latter may be circular or may have wing portions at right angles to the main portions by way of example.

The term "fabric" as used in the claims is 75 generic to embrace any and all flexible covering

materials and includes leather, imitation leather, silk, wool, rayon, metal mesh and numerous other materials suitable for flexible handbags generally.

While the shape of the crest has been shown in one particular design effect, it will be understood that the invention lends itself to any of countless variations of design and contour thereof, and that the surface conformation of the crest also may be varied according to the taste of the designer to include plaiting, pleating, ruffling or any of numerous other effects that will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.

As many changes could be made in the above article and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be made without departing from the scope of the claims, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

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

1. A handbag frame comprising a pair of substantially identical hinged jaws, a crest having 25 a base affixed to one of said jaws, and extending substantially the entire length thereof from hinge to hinge, said crest having upstanding flexible side walls converging upwardly from the respective sides of said base and permanently 30 secured directly together at their registering upper edges, the base of said crest protruding beyond the inner edge of said jaw, thereby to overlap the companion jaw in closed position of the bag.

2. A handbag frame, comprising a pair of identical metal jaws hinged together at their ends, and a flexible fabric crest comprising a unitary blank of fabric having a base portion affixed to one of said jaws, and having flexible lateral wings unitary with said base, upstanding therefrom and stitched together at their outer edges, the base of said crest protruding inward beyond the jaw on which it is carried to overlap the companion jaw when the frame is closed, said 35 base having a stiffener extending the length and width thereof and enclosed within said hollow crest.

3. A handbag frame comprising a pair of metal jaws hinged together at their ends, a fabric covering extending snugly over each of said jaws, and a hollow fabric crest having a base superposed over and stitched along the length thereof to the fabric covering of one of said jaws, said crest 40 having flexible side walls rising from the respective sides of said base and stitched together at their outer ends the base of said crest protruding beyond the inner edge of said jaw, thereby to overlap the companion jaw in closed position of the bag.

4. A handbag frame comprising a pair of metal jaws hinged together at their ends, a fabric covering over each of said jaws, a crest comprising a unitary piece of fabric including a base portion extending substantially the length of one of said 45 frames and stitched to the covering of the latter, said crest including side walls rising from said base and stitched together at their outer edges, a flexible fiber stiffening ply covering the inner areas of the base and the side walls of said crest and completely enclosed therein, the base of said crest overhanging the inner edge of the jaw on which it is carried to overlap the companion jaw in closed position of the frame.

5. A handbag frame, comprising a pair of 75

identical jaws hinged together at their ends, each jaw including a main section and a pair of wing sections rigid therewith and extending at an angle thereto, a crest extending substantially the length of one of said jaws hinge to hinge, said crest including a base portion permanently affixed to said jaw, and flexible side walls rising from said base portion, the side walls of said crest fabric having darts at the junction between the longitudinal and wing portions of the frame, and being transversely stitched together thereat to conform to the shape of said jaw, the registering outer edge of the side walls of the crest being stitched together along the length thereof.

6. A handbag frame, including a metal jaw having a longitudinal portion and wing portions rigid therewith extending at an angle thereto and with hinges at the outer ends thereof, a flexible ornamental crest rigidly affixed to said jaw and extending substantially the entire length thereof from hinge to hinge, said crest comprising a unitary continuous blank of fabric, a flexible stiffening backing covering the inner face thereof, the margin of said fabric being turned inward over said backing, said backing being cut away at the junction region between the longitudinal and wing portions of the jaws, and being transversely stitched together thereat to conform the crest to the shape of the jaw, the said crest portion being folded longitudinally to determine a base portion and lateral walls, the said base portion being affixed to the length of said jaw, and said lateral walls being stitched together along the length of the outer edges thereof.

7. The combination recited in claim 6, in which each of the jaws has a fabric covering, and the base portion of the crest is stitched longitudinally to the covering on one of said jaws.

8. A handbag frame comprising a pair of metal jaws, each including a main portion and lateral wing portions rigid therewith and extending at

an angle thereto, said wing portions being hinged together, a flexible ornamental crest unit affixed to one of said jaws and extending substantially the entire length thereof from hinge to hinge, said crest unit being composed of a unitary piece of fabric having superposed thereover a ply of cloth and a ply of flexible fiber, the margins of said fabric being turned inwardly over said fiber, said fiber ply being cut away at the region corresponding to the inner ends of the wing portions of the jaw and transversely stitched together to conform the crest to the wings of the jaw, the said crest unit being longitudinally folded to form a base portion rigidly affixed to the frame, and lateral portions turned inward and stitched together along the outer edges thereof.

9. A handbag frame, comprising a pair of metal jaws, each including a main portion and lateral wing portions rigid therewith and extending at an angle thereto, said wing portions being hinged together, a flexible ornamental crest unit affixed to one of said jaws and extending substantially the entire length thereof from hinge to hinge, said crest unit being composed of a unitary piece of fabric having superposed thereover a ply of cloth and a ply of flexible fiber, the margins of said fabric being turned inwardly over said fiber, said fiber ply being cut away at the region corresponding to the inner ends of wing portions of the jaw and transversely stitched together thereat to conform the crest unit to the jaw, the said crest unit being longitudinally folded to form a base portion rigidly affixed to the jaw, and lateral portions turned inward and stitched together along the outer edges thereof, a bag latching plate hinged to said jaw and interposed between said jaw and the base of said crest, the fiber ply of said crest structure being cut away along that portion of the base corresponding to said plate.

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