June 24, 1958 H. COHEN 2,840,437

POCKET BOOK STRUCTURE

Filed Oct. 4, 1954

FIG. 1

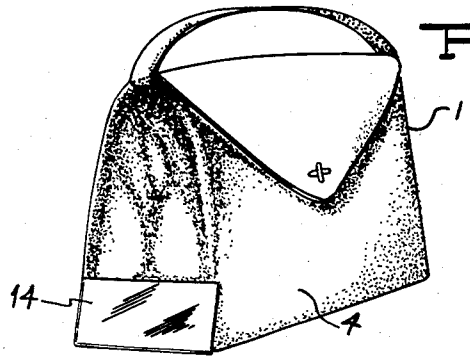
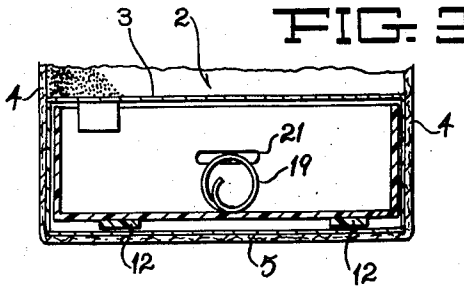


FIG. 3



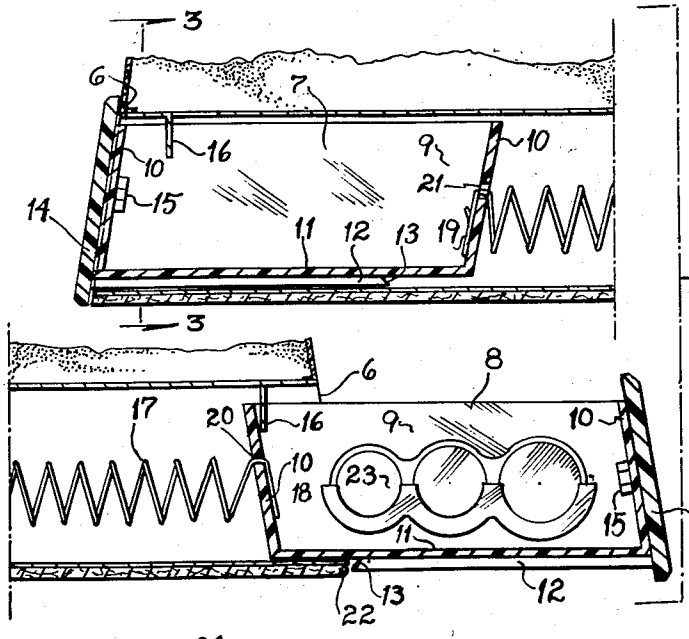


FIG. 2

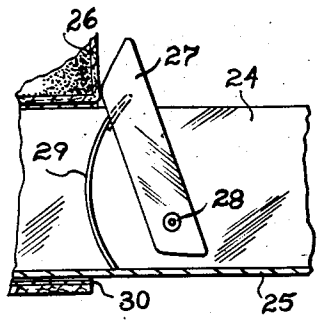


FIG. 4

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POCKET BOOK STRUCTURE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 312—319)

The present invention relates to an improved pocket-book structure, and more particularly to a lady's hand-bag construction in which the lower portion of the bag is provided with slidable trays.

It is well known that one of the major annoyances to users of hand bags is that it is very difficult to get at small objects, such as change, keys, or lip-stick in a hand bag, as these small items usually fall to the bottom of the bag beneath a number of other objects.

It is an object of the present invention to overcome this difficulty and also to provide a hand bag in which various small items may be stored neatly by providing a separate compartment in the lower portion of the hand bag in which the compartment is formed by two slidable trays which may be opened by the user without the need of actually opening up the main portion of the bag.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a separate compartment which may be incorprated into a lady's hand bag construction with a minimum of difficulty, in which the compartment is formed of two slidable trays of inexpensive construction with the trays spring tensioned in a normally closed position.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a lady's hand bag construction having at least one slidable tray which is normally spring tensioned in a closed position, but which may be simply locked in an open position for easy access to the contents of the tray. These and other advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a typical lady's hand bag containing the invention.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal cross section of the compartment as positioned in the bottom of a lady's hand-bag with one tray opened and one closed.

Figure 3 is a cross section of the invention taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 2, and,

Figure 4 is a fragmentary cross sectional elevation of a modification of the invention.

In the present invention a separate compartment having two slidable trays at either end is manufactured as a separate unit and may be incorporated in the bottom of various styled ladies' hand bags by suitable means. Thus as illustrated in the figures, the lady's hand bag **1**, of any conventional style, but preferably having a rectangular base, is provided with a separate compartment section generally designated **2**. In this compartment section there is provided a rectangular elongated shell **3**, opened at either end and made preferably of a metal material. The outside of this rectangular shell **3** is secured to the walls **4** and bottom **5** of the lady's hand bag by cementing or other suitable means. If desired a lining may be placed over the shell **3**. The open end **6** of this rectangular shell or casing **3** terminates at the end of the bag **1**, preferably at a slight angle.

Positioned at either end within this casing **3** are trays generally designated **7** and **8**. These trays are formed with side walls **9**, end walls **10**, and bottoms **11**. The

trays which may be molded of a fairly rigid plastic material are also provided on their bottom **11** with pairs of runners **12**. These runners extend from the outer end wall **10** to a point short of the inner end wall **10** and terminates in an acute bevelled end section **13**. These trays may be provided with end plates **14** at their outer end, which plates may be secured to the outer ends **10** by screws **15** or by other suitable means.

These end plates preferably extend beyond the edges of the rectangular casing **3** and form a means for gripping the tray. The trays **7** and **8** fit loosely within the casing **3**, but are held in position from being unintentionally pulled out too far by downwardly extending tongues **16**, punched from the upper wall of the casing **3** in positions near either end of the rectangular casing **3**. Each tongue extends downwardly sufficiently far enough to contact the inner end walls **10** of the trays when the trays are pulled out. They do not however project downwardly so far that, if desired, the trays **7** and **8** may not be intentionally removed. The two trays are connected one to another and are tensioned to normally remain in a closed position by a helical spring **17** of suitable strength. This spring **17** has ends **18** and **19** passing through openings **20** and **21** respectively in the end walls of the trays **8** and **7** respectively. Thus, when the operator desires to open one or both trays, she merely pulls the tray out by grasping the plate **14** until the runner **12** is extended entirely beyond the end of the bag. The runner is then allowed to slip downwardly until its angular end section **13** is positioned below the end **22** of the casing **3** where it will engage this end and hold the tray open against the inward tension of the spring **17**. If desired a change container **23** may be provided on the inner wall of one or both of the trays.

In Figure 4 there is illustrated a modification in which there is provided in place of a runner **12**, a pawl arrangement for holding open the container **24**. In this arrangement a lever **27** pivoted at **28** to the side wall of the tray or container **24** is provided with a spring **29** with one end of the spring engaging the lever **27** near its upper end and the other end of the spring **29** normally contacting the bottom **25** of the tray.

In the operation of this modification, the tray may be slid open until the lever arm is beyond the opening **30**. The lever **27** will then be raised by the action of the spring **29** until its inner edge contacts the upper edge **26** of the pocket book. This will maintain the tray in an open position as the lever arm **27** has a limited arc of rotation about the pivot point **28**, for the lower end of the lever arm **27** contacts and jams against the bottom **25** of the tray.

To close the tray of this modification, it is merely pulled further out and the lever arm **27** is forced downward until it clears the end wall **26**. The container may then easily be slid inwardly to a closed position.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. In a hand-bag of the type described, a compartment comprising a rectangular open ended shell, a slidable tray positioned at each end of said shell, said trays formed with end walls and a bottom, a helical spring with means securing its ends, one each to the inner end walls of said trays whereby the trays are normally tensioned in a closed position within said shell, runners formed on the bottom of said trays extending longitudinally thereto and terminated short of the inner wall with the inner ends of the runners adapted to be engaged with the ends of the shell and lock the trays in an open position against the tension of the spring means.

2. In a hand bag structure of the type described in claim 1, said runners having their inner ends forming an acute angle with the bottom of said trays.

3. In a hand-bag of the type described, a compartment

comprising a rectangular open ended shell, a slidable tray positioned at each end of said shell, said trays having end walls and a bottom with plates forming the outer end walls extending beyond the edges of the shell, a helical spring with means securing its ends one on each to the inner end walls of said trays, whereby the trays are normally tensioned in a closed position within the shell, and means for locking said trays in an open position against the tension of said spring means.

4. A device as set forth in claim 3 wherein said means for locking said trays comprise lever arms, means pivotally securing said lever arms with a limited arc of rotation to said side walls, and leaf springs adapted to tension said lever arms in an upright position, whereby when the trays are opened, the lever arms will engage the edges of said shell and lock the trays in an open position against the tension of said helical spring.

5. In a hand-bag of the type described, a compartment comprising a rectangular open ended shell, a pair of slidable trays positioned at either end of said shell, said trays having end walls and a bottom with plates formed over

the outer end walls extending beyond the edges of the shell thereby providing means limiting the inward movement of said trays, a helical spring with means securing its ends one on each to the inner end walls of said trays, whereby the trays are normally tensioned in a closed position within the shell, tongues extending downwardly from the upper wall of the shell adapted to engage the inner wall of said trays, and means for locking said trays in an open position against the tension of said spring means.

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