

A. W. JEFFS.
WOMAN'S HAND BAG.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 27, 1920.

1,404,528.

Patented Jan. 24, 1922.

Fig. 1.

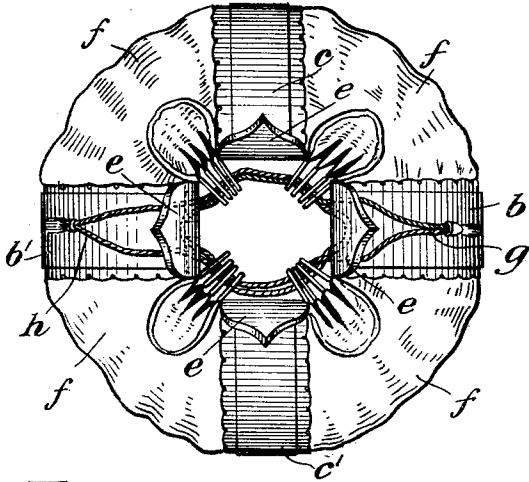


Fig. 5.

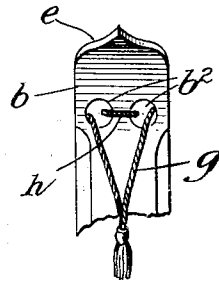


Fig. 2.

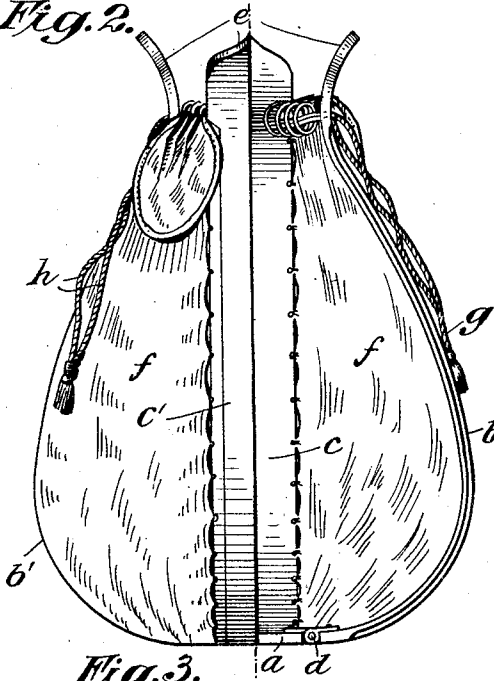


Fig. 4.

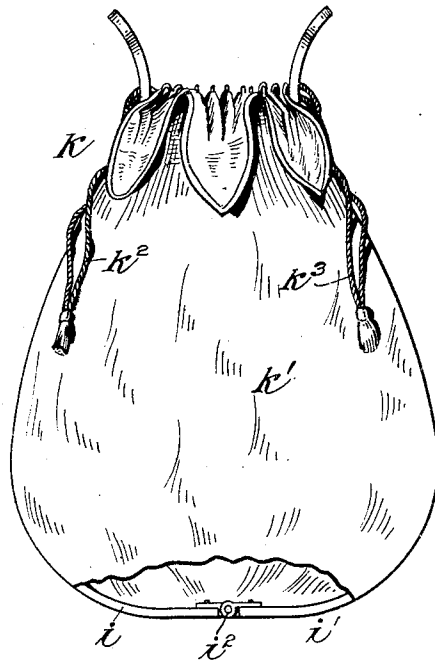
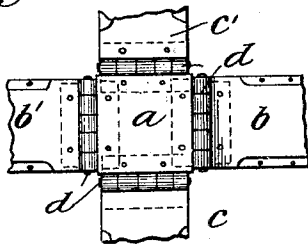


Fig. 3.



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WOMAN'S HAND BAG.

1,404,528.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR W. JEFFS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the borough of Queens of the city of New York, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Women's Hand Bags, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

In using a woman's hand bag or purse it is very difficult to extract the contents therefrom, particularly adjacent the bottom of the bag, by reason of the folds of fabric which naturally form and cling together. There is nothing in ordinary constructions to hold these folds of fabric apart so as to insure a wide opening with well defined walls permitting the hand to readily reach the object sought. In some types of pouches, such as tobacco bags it has been proposed to employ a median frame formed as an integral strip of stiff material to which the side walls of the pouch are secured but this frame is naturally springy and opposes any effort to open the pouch. It does not and cannot by reason of its structure, serve the purpose of holding the fabric folds separated when the pouch is opened so as to permit ready access thereto. In such pouches there is, indeed, no reason for having such a spreading action of the fabric folds since the tobacco or the like is shaken from the pouch in a small stream. In accordance with the present invention it is proposed to improve the construction of women's hand bags or purses by forming the same with two or more median frame pieces of stiff material having hinged sections whereby when the bag is opened the frame members will readily conform to the opening movement and yet hold the pieces of fabric widely separated to afford easy access to the contents of the bag. Such a result is the principal object sought for in the improved construction but it is true that other advantages are inherent in it, such as cheapness in manufacture, simplicity of design and replacement of worn fabric, and sightliness. The stiff frame pieces may be made of metal or of celluloid or the like and can be of most attractive and ornamental appearance harmonizing completely with the fabric of the bag. All of these objects will appear more particularly as the description proceeds, reference now being had to the accompanying drawings wherein

are illustrated two suitable embodiments of the invention. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in plan of a hand bag formed with two median frames extending in planes at right-angles to each other.

Figure 2 is a view in elevation of the bag shown in Figure 1, one piece of material between adjacent frame members being omitted in the interest of clearness.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view in plan showing the frame members of Figures 1 and 2 hinged to the base.

Figure 4 is a view in elevation of a somewhat modified construction in which only a single median frame is employed, the two sections being hinged directly to one another.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary detail view showing the suitable manner of passing the draw strings through one of the sections of the frame.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1-3, the bag is provided with a stiff base *a* disposed in the fabric at the bottom and having hinged to its opposite side edges stiff frame sections *b*, *b'* and *c*, *c'* extending, respectively, upwardly at opposite sides of the bag. The hinged joints may be of any suitable construction and are illustrated at *d* the joints being alike in each instance. The bag under description is to be generally pear-shaped and for this reason the sections *b*, *b'*, *c*, *c'* of the median frames are formed accordingly being bowed adjacent the lower portions and curved inwardly towards one another adjacent their upper ends and preferably curved in an ornamental manner as indicated at *e* at their upper ends. It will be understood that the invention is in no wise limited, no matter what the mechanical construction of the frame may be, to the outline of the sections of the frame or to the shape or dimensions of the bag itself. The median frames formed by the sections *b*, *b'* and *c*, *c'*, respectively, are preferably disposed in planes at right-angles to each other, these sections constituting essentially a spider in the mechanical arts. To the edges of the contiguous sections and extending upwardly from their lower ends and from the base *a* are pieces of fabric *f* constituting the body proper of the bag. These four pieces of fabric can be stitched readily to the edges of the sections *b*, *b'*, *c*, *c'* and, of course, can be of any suitable material in composition and design. Through the fabric adjacent its upper edge, or through de-

vices secured thereto and through suitable holes such as are indicated in the section b, b^2 in Figure 5, extend draw strings g, h , or the like, holes corresponding to the holes b^2 in the section b being also formed in the opposite section b' so that the pull on the draw strings will draw the sections b, b' together by direct action of the strings thereon and will also draw the other frame sections c, c' towards each other by the pull of said strings on the fabric. Of course, it will be understood that the strings g, h can be passed through holes in the sections c, c' or otherwise engaged directly with said sections so as to impress a direct pull thereon.

In the modified embodiment shown in Figure 4 only two stiff sections i, i' are employed as the frame for the bag k these two sections being of any desired form and material as, for instance, like any two of the sections described in the embodiment shown in Figure 1, and may be hinged at the bottom of the bag, directly to each other, as indicated at i^2 . The fabric k' of the bag is preferably cut in two pieces, these pieces being stitched at their edges to the edges of the median frame formed by the sections i, i' . Draw strings k^2, k^3 can be passed through the frame members i, i' and engaged with the fabric k' of the bag in a suitable manner such as, for instance, that which has been hereinbefore described. It is apparent that instead of hinging the sections i, i' directly to each other they may be hinged to an intermediate stiff base corresponding in a general way to the base a shown in Figure 3 or, a stiff frame base might encircle the lower portion of the bag and extend up its sides for a distance and the sections i, i' then constitute upper side pieces of a frame and be hinged to such lower frame section.

Whether the bag take the particular forms herein illustrated and described or whether it find embodiment in some other construction, it will be understood that the essential characteristic is the provision of stiff hinged frame sections to which the fabric of the bag is secured. The characteristic advantage of the improved construction can be made clear by a brief description of its action in opening and closing. When the draw strings g, h or k^2, k^3 , are pulled on the fabric pieces will be drawn together at their upper edges to close the bag, the sections

b, b', c, c' , or i, i' readily conforming to such closing movement, and hinged joints in each instance permitting free movement. When the bag is to be opened for the extraction of some object therein the fingers can be readily inserted between the sections of the frame and these sections thrown outwardly. This will quickly expand the mouth of the bag and separate the pieces of fabric and their folds. When the sections are thus thrown back it is evident that by reason of their stiffness, ready access will be afforded to the interior of the bag, the folds of fabric will be separated and well defined interior walls will expose the contents to view. The construction itself is one which is inexpensive, entailing only the provision of the frame, not now employed in such bags but the facility with which the fabric can be stitched at its edges to the sections of the frame will indeed reduce the entire cost of manufacture and labor and will afford to the user a most convenient opportunity for replacement of any of the pieces of the fabric. Further, the stiff sections of the frame can be of metal or celluloid or the like and can be of ornamental design to improve the appearance of the bag or can be entirely encased by some selected material.

What I claim is:

1. A hand bag formed with a frame having a separate rectangular base, two pairs of stiff sections hinged to said base at its opposite edges, respectively, said sections constituting in pairs median frames for the bag disposed at right-angles to each other, and pliant material secured to the edges of proximate sections to form a closed pouch open at one end only.

2. A hand bag having a frame including a series of stiff sections arranged in pairs and extending upwardly at opposite sides of the bag and mounted in hinged relation adjacent the lower portions of the bag, pliant material secured to the proximate frame sections to form a closed pouch open at one end only, rings secured to the top edges of the material of the bag and disposed between the stiff sections, and a draw string passing through the upper ends of the stiff sections and the rings to cause the weight of the bag to hold it closed.

This specification signed this 24th day of Sept. A. D., 1920.

ARTHUR W. JEFFS.