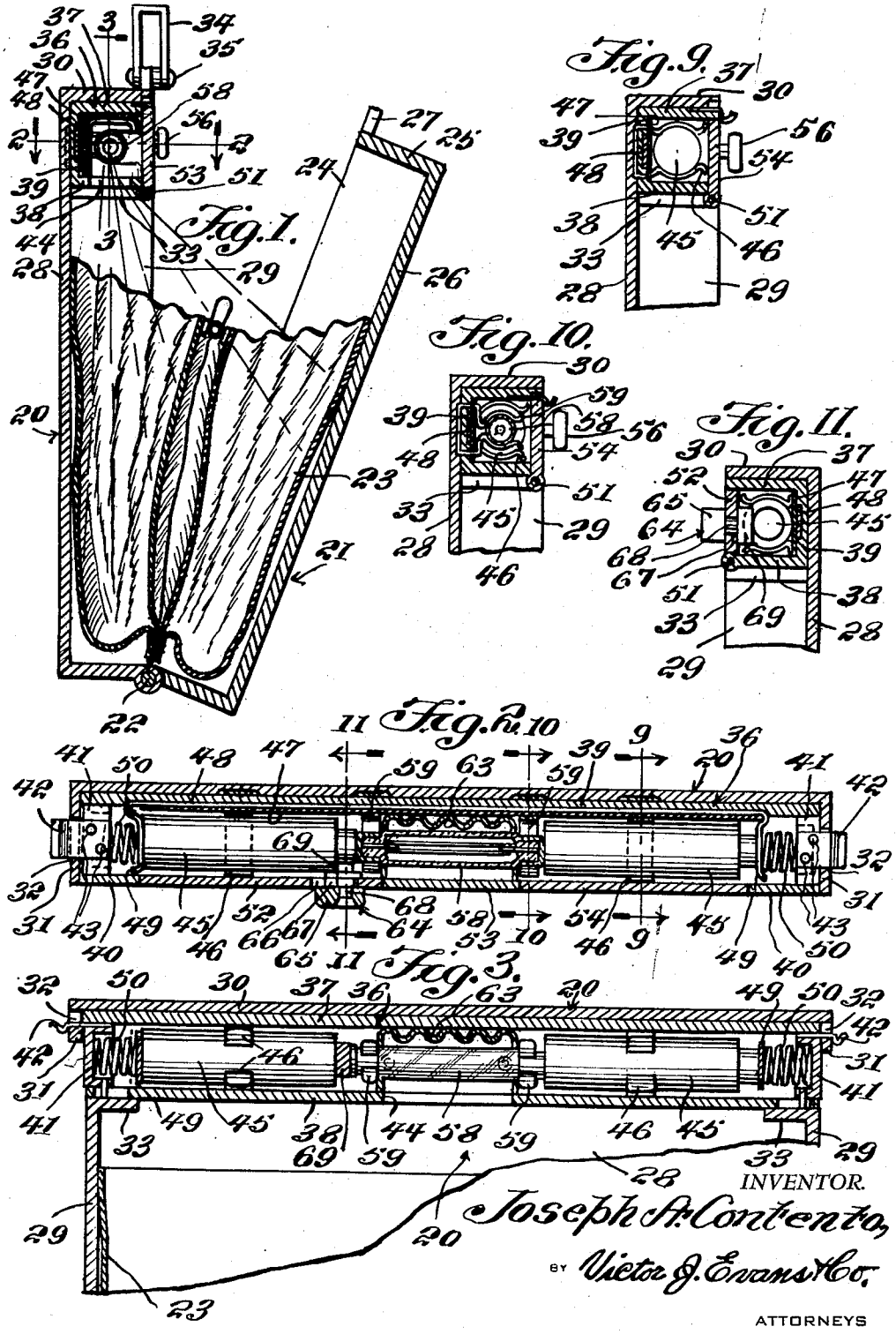
July 28, 1953 J. A. CONTENTO 2,647,201

LADY'S LIGHTED HANDBAG

Filed Nov. 17, 1950 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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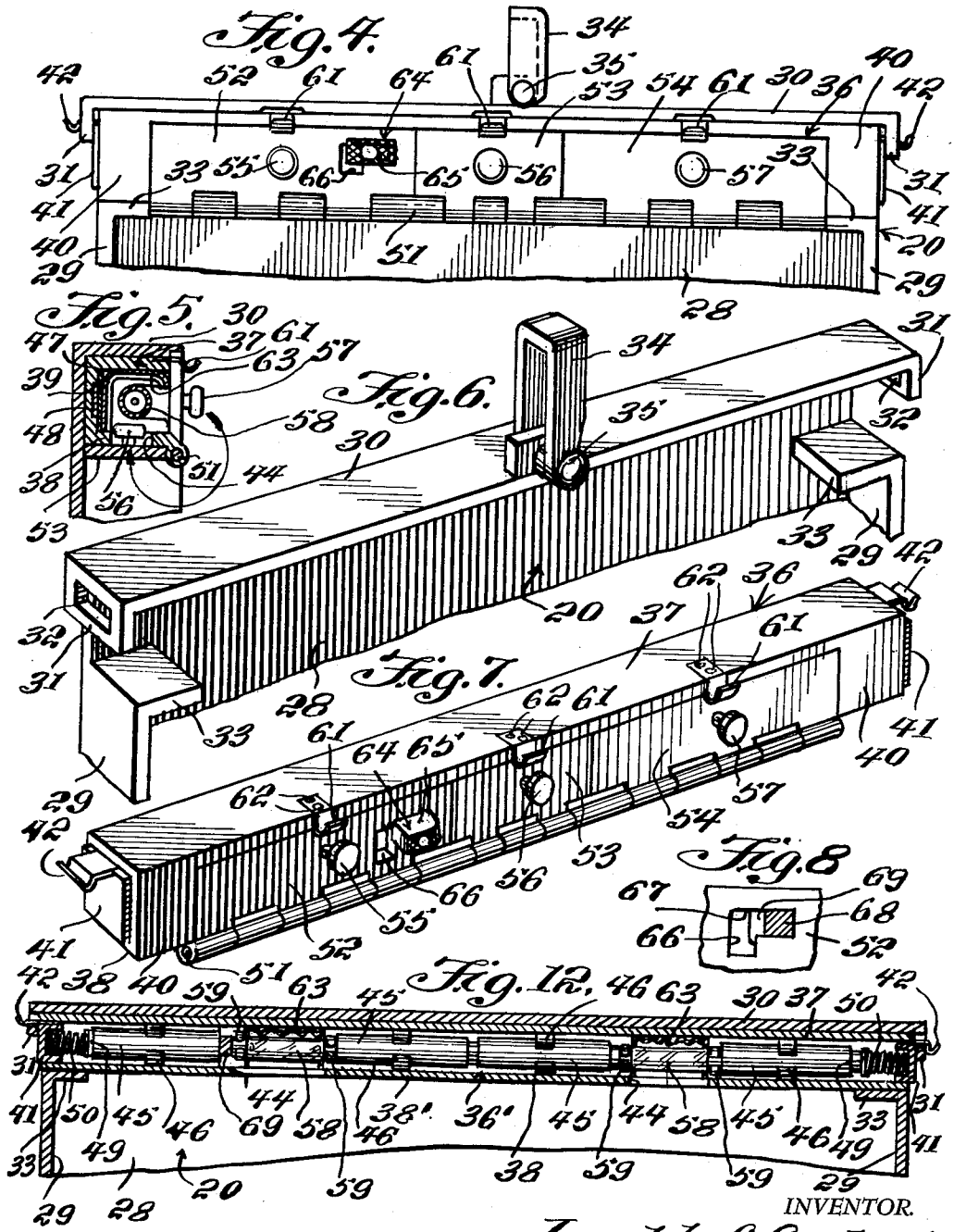

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LADY'S LIGHTED HANDBAG

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3 Claims. (Cl. 240—6.45)

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This invention relates to an illuminated lady's handbag or pocketbook.

The object of the invention is to provide a means for illuminating the interior of a lady's handbag, whereby the lady can readily observe the interior of the handbag to locate articles therein.

Another object of the invention is to provide a lighting means for a lady's handbag, wherein the lighting means or mechanism can be easily and quickly removed from the handbag, there being doors permitting the user to readily gain access to the batteries and light bulb, the lighting mechanism including a corrugated reflector for insuring a more efficient reflection into the handbag.

A further object of the invention is to provide a means for illuminating a lady's handbag which is extremely simple and inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application, in which like numerals are used to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view taken through a pocketbook having the illuminated mechanism of the present invention installed therein;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary elevational view of the lighting mechanism of the present invention as installed in a conventional handbag or pocketbook;

Figure 5 is a sectional view through the unit illustrating the action of one of the hinged doors or panels;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the "unit-receiving" part of a pocketbook;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the detachable light unit;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the switch construction;

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken on the line 9—9 of Figure 2;

Figure 10 is a sectional view taken on the line 10—10 of Figure 2;

Figure 11 is a sectional view taken on the line 11—11 of Figure 2;

Figure 12 is a view similar to Figure 3, but illustrating a modified form of the invention, wherein a pocketbook employs a double lighting unit.

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Referring in detail to Figures 1 through 11 of the drawings, the numerals 20 and 21 designate a pair of sections of a lady's handbag or pocketbook, Figure 1. The sections 20 and 21 are pivotally connected together at their bottoms by a hinge 22, and the sections 20 and 21 are mounted for movement toward and away from each other. Arranged within the sections 20 and 21 is a lining 23 which is adapted to hold the usual articles that are carried in a lady's handbag. The section 21 includes a back wall 26 and a top wall 25, there being spaced parallel end walls 24 extending from the back wall 26. Latch 27 extends upwardly from the top wall 25 for a purpose to be later described.

The other section 20 includes a back wall 28, Figure 6, a pair of spaced, parallel end walls 29, and a top wall 30. Extending downwardly from the top wall 30 is a pair of spaced, parallel ears 31, and each of the ears 31 is provided with a rectangular slot or aperture 32 for a purpose to be later described. Extending inwardly from each of the end walls 29 is a lip 33. A U-shaped clasp 34 is pivotally connected to the top wall 30 by a pin 35, and the clasp 34 is adapted to engage the latch 27 so as to maintain the sections 20 and 21 in their closed position. The latch 34 can be readily pivoted to the position shown in Figures 1 and 4 when the pocketbook is to be opened.

Detachably connected to the section 20 is a hollow housing 36, Figure 7. The housing 36 includes a top member 37 and a bottom member 38, Figure 3. The housing 36 further includes a back member 39 and a front member 40, Figure 2, and for closing the end of the housing 36, an end plate 41 is arranged at each end of the housing. A spring latch 42 is secured to each of the end plates 41 by suitable securing elements, such as rivets 43, and the spring latches 42 are adapted to project through the slots 32 in the ears 31, whereby the housing 36 will be maintained immobile when the housing is being supported below the top wall 30 on the lips 33.

The bottom member 38 of the housing 36 is provided with a cutout or opening 44, Figure 3, so that light rays can normally shine down into the interior of the handbag when the illuminating mechanism is actuated. Arranged within the housing 36 is a pair of conventional flashlight batteries 45. The flashlight batteries 45 are each maintained within the housing by means of U-shaped spring clips 46, and a suitable layer or strip of insulating material 47 is arranged rearwardly of the batteries 45. An elongated spring metal connecting strip 48 is provided with trans-

verse ends 49 which define spring members that serve to urge the batteries 45 toward each other, and also serve to electrically connect opposite ends of the pair of batteries 45 together. A pair of coil springs 50 are provided, Figures 2 and 3, and the coil springs 50 serve to normally maintain or urge the transverse ends 49 into engagement with the respective ends of the batteries 45. A hinge construction 51 hingedly connects a door 52 to the housing 36, and the hinge construction 51 also hingedly connects doors 53 and 54 to the housing 36. A knob 55 is secured to the door 52, there being a knob 56 secured to the door 53, and a similar knob 57 secured to the other door 54, Figure 7. The doors 52 and 54 are adapted to be swung open when the batteries 45 are to be replaced. The door 53 is adapted to be swung open when the user desires to gain access to the light bulb 58, the light bulb 58 being maintained between the pair of batteries 45 by suitable spring clips 59, Figure 3.

A plurality of latches 61 are secured to the top member 37 of the housing 36 by suitable securing elements, such as rivets 62, and the latches 61 serve to maintain the doors 52, 53 and 54 in their locked or closed positions. Referring to Figure 5, it will be seen that the door 53 can be swung down or pivoted about the hinge 51 so that it closes the opening 44 in the bottom member 38. With the door 53 in the position shown in Figure 5, the light rays from the bulb 58 will pass out or be emitted through the front of the housing 36 to enable the lighting mechanism to be used as a mechanism for facilitating the unlocking of doors or other uses. A suitable corrugated mirror or reflector member 63 is arranged above and rearwardly of the light bulb 58, so that the light rays will be more efficiently reflected into the interior of the pocketbook.

A switch is provided for enabling the user to control the energization or actuation of the light bulb 58. This switch is designated by the numeral 64 and includes a knob 65 which may be knurled, and the knob 65 is secured to the outer end of a stem 68. The stem 68 is adapted to ride or move in a bayonet slot, and the bayonet slot includes a vertical portion 66 and a horizontal portion 67. A washer 69 is mounted on the inner end of the stem 68, Figure 2. When the parts of the switch are in the position shown in Figure 2, the battery 45 (left side of Figure 2) will be in electrical contact with the light bulb 58, so that the bulb will be energized, but when the stem 68 is moved by means of the head 65 so that the stem 68 is positioned in the vertical portion 66 of the bayonet slot, when the battery 45 on the left side of Figures 2 and 3, will be forced against the spring 49 and out of electrical contact with the bulb 58, so that the bulb 58 will not be energized.

Referring to Figure 12 of the drawings, there is shown a slightly modified arrangement wherein a double unit is provided instead of the single unit of Figures 1 through 11. Thus, in Figure 12, four of the batteries 45 are arranged in a housing 36', the housing 36' including a bottom member 38' that is provided with a pair of the cutouts 44 for the passage therethrough of the light rays. A pair of light bulbs 58 are arranged in the housing 36', and a switch 64 is provided for controlling the actuation of the light bulb 58. Otherwise, the construction of the lighting assembly of Figure 12 is the same as the previously-described construction.

In use, the housing 36 is supported on the lips 33, the latches 42 projecting through the apertures 32 in the ears 31 to maintain the housing 36 connected to the section 20. Then, to actuate the light bulb 58, the switch 64 is arranged so that its stem 68 is seated in the horizontal portion 67 of the bayonet slot. Thus, the electrical circuit will be completed through the connecting strip 48, through the transverse ends 49, then through the pair of batteries 45 and the light bulb 58 will be energized. The light rays from the bulb 58 will be emitted through the slot 44 in the bottom of the housing 36, so that the contents of the pocketbook can be readily observed. To turn off the light bulb 58, the switch 64 is arranged or moved so that its stem 68 is seated in the vertical portion 66 of the bayonet slot. This forces the left battery 45, Figures 2 and 3, over against the spring 49 and the circuit is broken. The corrugated mirror 63 insures that the light rays will be efficiently diffused or reflected into the pocketbook. Also, the door 53 can be arranged so that the light rays pass downwardly through the slot 44, as shown in Figure 1, or the door 53 can be arranged as shown in Figure 5, so that the light rays pass out of the front of the housing, whereby the light can be used for facilitating the opening of doors in the dark, or other purposes. The doors 52 and 54 can be swung open when the batteries 45 are to be replaced, and the door 53 can be opened when the light bulb 58 is to be repaired or replaced.

The end plates 41 can be manually depressed inwardly when the housing 36 is to be removed from the pocketbook. The coil springs are primarily for urging the end plates 41 outwardly, but these springs also help to hold the batteries in their proper position. The springs 50 bear against the spring metal ends 49 and the spring ends 49 serve to normally urge the batteries together.

The illuminating means of the present invention can also be used for locating names on houses or mail boxes in apartment houses during the dark, and a mirror may be arranged in the pocketbook if desired. Also, it will be seen that the storage part of the handbag is free and clear of any interference from batteries, wires or the like, and the handbag may be of any desired shape or form. The assembly of Figure 12 includes two of the lamps 58 and four batteries 45, so that this assembly can be used for pocketbooks which have an exceptionally great length. The handbag can be made of any suitable material, and the corrugated reflector 63 provides that the light rays will be efficiently reflected. Also, the entire unit can be removed if desired.

I claim:

1. In a lady's, illuminated handbag, a pair of sections hingedly connected together, each of said sections including a side wall, a pair of spaced parallel end walls and a top wall, coacting locking means on said top wall for maintaining said sections in their closed position, a pair of apertured ears extending downwardly from the top wall of one of said sections, lips extending inwardly from the end wall of said one section, a housing supported on said lips, spring latches projecting from the ends of said housing into engagement with said apertured ears, said housing including a top and bottom member, and a back member, said bottom member being provided with a slot for the passage therethrough of light rays, a pair of batteries ar-

ranged in said housing, and extending longitudinally therethrough a light bulb interposed between said pair of batteries, a corrugated mirror positioned rearwardly of said bulb, a metal strip electrically connecting said batteries together, and a switch for actuating said light bulb.

2. The apparatus as described in claim 1, and further including doors for gaining access to said batteries and light bulb.

3. In a lady's, illuminated handbag, a pair of sections hingedly connected together, each of said sections including a side wall, a pair of end walls and a top wall, coacting locking means on said top wall for maintaining said sections in their closed position, a pair of apertured ears extending from the top wall of one of said sections, lips extending from the end wall of said one section, a housing supported on said lips, spring latches projecting from the ends of said housing into engagement with said apertured ears, said housing including a top and bottom member, and a back member, said bottom member being provided with a slot for the passage there-

through of light rays, a pair of batteries arranged in said housing and extending longitudinally therethrough, a light bulb interposed between said pair of batteries, a mirror positioned rearwardly of said bulb, a metal strip electrically connecting said batteries together, and a switch for actuating said light bulb.

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