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E. J. VAN ISEGHEM

2,315,169

HANDBAG AND SIMILAR PORTABLE ENCLOSURE

Filed April 17, 1942

Fig. 1.

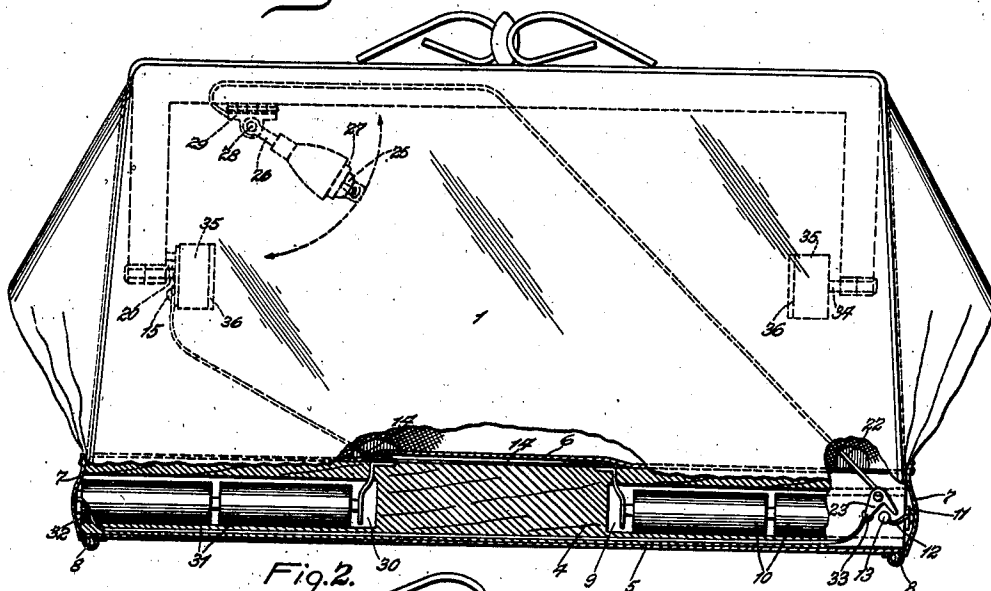


Fig. 2.

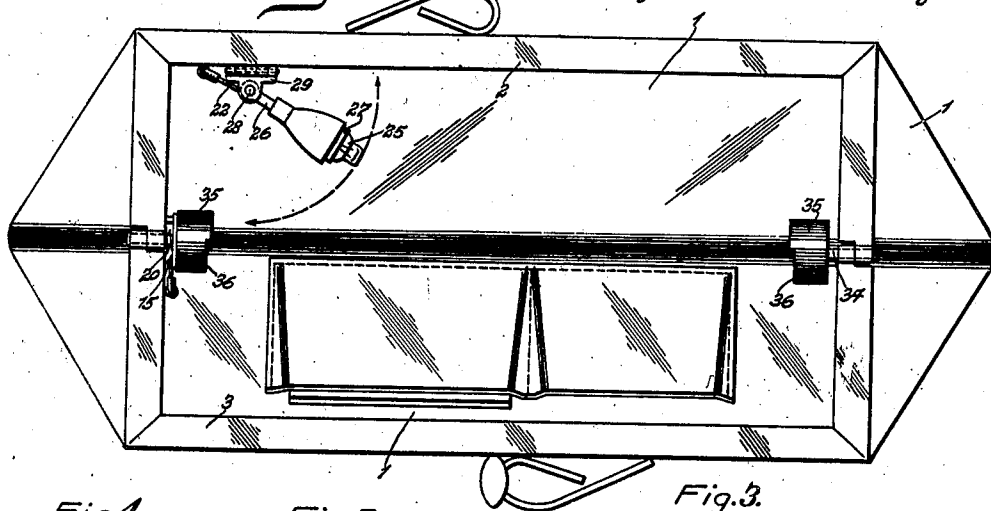


Fig. 4.

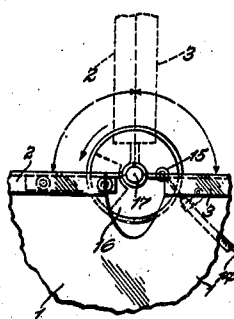


Fig. 5.

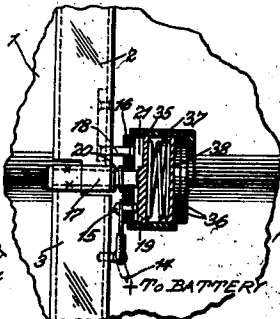


Fig. 3.

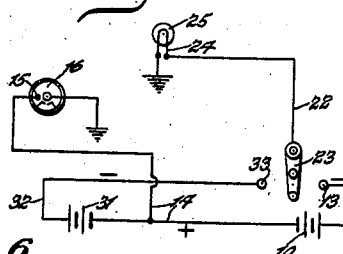


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HANDBAG AND SIMILAR PORTABLE ENCLOSURE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 240—6.45)

This invention relates to handbags and similar portable enclosures; and has special reference to means for illuminating the inside of handbags and the like when they are opened to afford access to the contents.

Objects of the invention are to equip a lady's handbag or other portable enclosure with means for illuminating the inside of the bag or enclosure when it is opened; to provide lighting equipment in connection with at least one of the hinges of a handbag or portable enclosure whereby the inside of said bag or enclosure may be illuminated by a lamp supported therein automatically and as an incident to the opening of the bag or enclosure; to provide means whereby the lighting equipment may be disabled or prevented from operation so that the handbag may be opened without energizing or lighting the lamp when no artificial illumination is needed; and to provide alternative sources of electrical energy controlled by a single switch for lighting the inside of the handbag or enclosure when opened, so that, when either of said sources becomes incapable of functioning, the other may be used.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved automatic switch for the electrical circuit controlling the lamp whereby the lamp will be turned on or energized automatically and as an incident to opening the handbag or enclosure and turned off automatically and as an incident to the closing of said handbag or enclosure.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved coin holder, or more than one coin holder if desired, within the handbag or enclosure, which holder or holders are capable of use for supporting coins conveniently accessible to the user when the handbag or enclosure is opened. Said holder or one of said holders may be usefully arranged in cooperative association with the switch whereby the lamp is automatically energized or lighted when the handbag or enclosure is opened; or said holder or holders may be arranged independently and apart from said switch if desired.

Another object of the invention is to provide a handbag or other portable enclosure supporting a lamp for lighting the interior, the entire structure being durable and efficient in use and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

Various other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description, reference being made to the annexed drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a handbag or port-

able enclosure having my invention embodied therein.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the handbag or portable enclosure open to afford access to the contents.

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view of the electrical equipment for energizing the lamp which lights the inside of the handbag.

Fig. 4 is a detail end elevation of one of the hinges of a handbag or like portable enclosure showing one form of automatic switch in connection therewith.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the structure shown in Fig. 4, the handbag being open and the coin holder shown in section.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of one of the automatic switch contact members.

The handbag or portable enclosure 1 may be of conventional or other preferred construction having one electrically conductive frame 2 pivotally connected with a cooperating frame 3. As shown and as is well known, said frames 2 and 3 are pivotally connected at opposite ends and are attached to the side walls of the handbag or enclosure for swinging movements from closed position (Fig. 1) to open position (Fig. 2), and vice versa. The walls of the handbag or the like may be made of leather or other appropriate material capable of use for such purposes.

In the embodiment shown, a support 4 is secured within the bottom of the handbag or the like, being covered and enclosed by the lower wall portion 5 thereof and having its inner side covered or enclosed by the handbag lining 6. The ends of the support 4 may be completely covered and enclosed, or uncovered and made accessible, by means of flaps 7 extending from connection with the wall of the handbag for detachable engagement with the lower portion 5 by means of fasteners 8. The fasteners 8 may be of the conventional glove fastener type, or of other construction as desired.

In the specific embodiment shown, which may be varied as desired, one end of the support 4 is formed with a hollowed-out compartment 9 containing removable and replaceable electrically charged batteries 10. The batteries are in electrical contact and the outer end of one of said batteries is engaged by an electrically conductive movable holder 11 having electrical connection 12 with a switch contact 13. The inner or positive end of the other battery has electrical connection 14 with a terminal 15 mounted in an insulating element 16. The element 16 is rotatively mounted on a pivot 17 functioning as a pivot connecting the frame members 2 and 3.

The pivot 17 is attached to one of the frame members for turning movements thereby when the handbag is opened or closed, and the other frame member is rotatively connected with said pivot for turning movements relative thereto.

In the specific arrangement shown, the pivot 17 is attached to the frame member 3 for turning movements thereby when the handbag is opened or closed, and the frame member 2 is pivoted on said pivot 17 for relative turning movements. This arrangement may obviously be varied as desired.

The element 16 is attached to the frame member 2 by a pin 18, so that said element 16 is moved by the swinging movements of the frame member 2. An electric switch member 19 is attached to the inner end of the pivot 17. The element 16 is actuated along the pivot 17 toward the switch member 19 by a spring 20 mounted between said support 16 and the adjacent frame 2 which is hinged on the pivot 17 as described. The terminal 15 extends toward the conductor 19 and, when the handbag or purse is closed, projects into a recess 21 in the conductor 19. Thus, when the two frame members 2 and 3 are adjacent to each other, which is to say when the handbag is closed, the terminal 15 is out of contact with the conductor 19 and the circuit is open. When the frames 2 and 3 are swung apart, which is to say when the handbag is opened, the element 16 and the conductor 19 are turned relative to each other after a slight movement of said frames 2 and 3, or either of them, toward open position, and contact of the terminal 15 with the conductor 19 is thereby established. In this way, electrical communication from the batteries 10 to the frame members 2 and 3 is established. When the handbag is closed, the terminal 15 and the conductor 19 are moved out of contact with each other and the circuit from the battery 10 to the frame 2 is opened.

A conductor 22 leads from electrical connection with a switch 23 to electrical communication with one end of the filament 24 of an electric lamp 25. The switch 23 is movable into and out of engagement with the contact 13 to close and open the circuit therefrom to the lamp filament. The opposite end of the lamp filament is in electrical communication with the frame member 2 through a metallic support 26 and a metallic lamp socket 27. This is to say that, when the lamp 25 is mounted in its socket 27, one end of the filament 24 is in electrical communication with the frame 2, the other end of said filament remaining in electrical communication with the conductor 22. The support 26 is mounted for swinging movements on a pivot 28 carried by a metallic support 29 attached to the frame 2 and having electrical communication therewith so that one end of the lamp filament 24 is grounded on the frame 2.

If desired, a hollowed-out compartment 30 complementary to the compartment 9 may be provided in the opposite end of the support 4 for holding removable and replaceable batteries 31 like the batteries 10. The positive end of the inner battery 31 may be in electrical communication with the connection 14, and the outer or negative end of the other battery 31 may have electrical connection 32 with a switch terminal 33. Thus, by moving the switch 23 into contact with the terminal 33, the batteries 31 may be used while the batteries 10 remain unoperated or out of use; and, by moving the switch 23

from the contact 33 into engagement with the contact 13, the batteries 10 may be used while the batteries 31 remain out of use. In either case, the electric lamp 25 may be energized and lighted when the handbag is opened. However, the switch 23 may be moved to an intermediate or "off" position out of engagement with both contacts 13 and 33, leaving the handbag free to be opened without lighting the lamp.

The opposite ends of the frames 2 and 3 are connected by a pivot 34 in axial alinement with the pivot 17, as is usual. If desired, a coin holder may be attached to either one or to each of the pivots 17 and 34. Such a coin holder may comprise a cylinder 35 rigid with either or with each pivot 17 and 34 and having its inner end open and formed with a coin receiving slot 36. A spring 37 is mounted in each cylinder 35 between a movable end wall 38 and the conductor 19 which forms the bottom wall of the cylinder. Coins may be mounted in and removed from the cylinder 35 through the slot 36 pressing the end wall 38 outwardly and compressing the spring 37. The coins may be conveniently removed from the cylinder 35 through the slot 36 by slight lateral pressure applied to the respective coins by the finger of the user.

It is obvious that the use of either one or both of the coin holders is optional and that they may be omitted if desired without departure from that part of the invention including the lighting device, and vice versa.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that my invention attains all of its intended objects and purposes very efficiently and satisfactorily. The lamp 25 being mounted on the pivot 28, may be turned in either direction to illuminate any part of the inside of the handbag, or even to light any adjacent external object. When the switch 23 is in either of its closed positions, the opening of the handbag automatically energizes and lights the lamp when the handbag is opened, and automatically deenergizes and extinguishes the lamp when the handbag is closed. Further, when the switch 23 is in its open position, the handbag may be opened and closed without turning the lamp on or off. The construction and arrangement of the parts comprising the invention may be varied widely within the scope of equivalent limits without departure from the nature and principle thereof.

I claim:

1. In a handbag having walls forming an enclosure and movable toward and from each other to close and open the handbag, and frames attached to said walls for swinging movements toward and from each other when the handbag is closed and opened; a pivot attached to one of said frames for turning movements thereby when the handbag is closed or opened and having pivotal connection with the other one of said frames, an insulating element supported by said pivot for turning movements about said pivot, means connecting said element with that one of said frames having pivotal connection with said pivot for turning said element about said pivot when the handbag is closed or opened, an electric terminal carried by said element, a battery having electrical connection with said terminal, a switch member attached to said pivot and movable by the relative turning movements of said pivot and said element into and out of contact with said terminal for establishing and breaking electrical communication between said contact and said frames when the handbag is opened and closed

respectively, an electric lamp having electrical communication with one of said frames, and an electrical connection from said battery to said lamp.

2. In a handbag having walls forming an enclosure and movable toward and from each other to close and open the handbag, and frames attached to said walls for swinging movements toward and from each other when the handbag is closed and opened; a pivot attached to one of said frames for turning movements thereby when the handbag is closed or opened and having pivotal connection with the other one of said frames, a switch member rigidly attached to said pivot for turning movements thereby when said pivot is turned by closing or opening of the handbag as aforesaid, an electric terminal supported by and insulated from said pivot for movement into and out of contact with said switch member when the handbag is opened and closed respectively, means attached to said frame that has pivotal connection with said pivot for moving said terminal relative to said switch member and thereby engage said terminal with said switch member by and during movement of said frames to open the handbag and disengage said terminal from said switch member by and during movement of said frames to close the handbag, an electric lamp supported within the handbag and having electrical communication with one of said frames, and means having electrical connection with said lamp for energizing said lamp when said terminal and said switch member are moved into contact with each other as aforesaid.

3. In a handbag having walls forming an enclosure and movable toward and from each other to close and open the handbag, and frames attached to said walls for swinging movements toward and from each other when the handbag is closed and opened; a pivot rotatively connected with one of said frames and rigidly attached to the other of said frames, a switch member rigidly attached to said pivot for turning movements thereby when said frames are relatively moved during opening and closing of the handbag as aforesaid, an electric terminal supported by and insulated from said pivot for movement into and out of contact with said switch member when said frames are moved to open and close the handbag as aforesaid, means attached to said frame that has rotative connection with said pivot for moving said terminal relative to and into and out of engagement with said switch member by and during movement of said frames to open and close the handbag respectively, an electric lamp supported within the handbag and having electrical communication with one of said frames, and means having electrical connection with said lamp for energizing said lamp when said terminal and said switch member are moved into contact with each other as aforesaid.

4. In a handbag having walls forming an enclosure and movable toward and from each other to close and open the handbag, and frames attached to said walls for swinging movements toward and from each other when the handbag is closed and opened; a pivot rotatively connected with one of said frames and rigidly attached to the other of said frames, a switch member rigidly attached to said pivot for turning movements thereby when said frames are relatively moved during opening and closing of the handbag as aforesaid, an electric terminal supported by and

insulated from said pivot for movement into and out of contact with said switch member when said frames are moved to open and close the handbag as aforesaid, means attached to said frame that has rotative connection with said pivot for moving said terminal relative to and into and out of engagement with said switch member by and during movement of said frames to open and close the handbag respectively, an electric lamp supported within the handbag and having electrical communication with one of said frames, means having electrical connection with said lamp for energizing said lamp when said terminal and said switch member are moved into contact with each other as aforesaid, and a manually operable switch device controlling electrical energization of said lamp when said terminal and said switch member are in contact with each other.

5. In a handbag having two walls forming an enclosure and movable toward and from each other to close and open said enclosure, an electrically conductive frame attached to one of said walls for moving the same as aforesaid, a cooperative frame attached to the other wall, a pivot rotatively connected with one of said frames and rigidly attached to the other, a lamp having a filament in electrical communication with said first frame, a battery supported by said walls and having electrical connection with said filament for energizing said filament when said first frame is in electrical communication with said battery, a switch member attached to said pivot and movable thereby into and out of electrical communication with said battery, and an insulating element attached to and operated by said first frame, a terminal having permanent electrical connection with said battery and carried and operated by said element for making and breaking electrical communication from said switch member to said battery to energize said lamp when said frames are swung apart to open the handbag and deenergize said lamp when said frames are moved to closed position.

6. In a handbag having two walls forming an enclosure and movable toward and from each other to close and open said enclosure, an electrically conductive frame attached to one of said walls for moving the same as aforesaid, a cooperative frame attached to the other wall, a pivot rotatively connected with one of said frames and rigidly attached to the other, a lamp having a filament in electrical communication with said first frame, a battery supported by said walls and having electrical connection with said filament for energizing said filament when said first frame is in electrical communication with said battery, a switch member attached to said pivot for movement thereby, a terminal having permanent electrical connection with said battery, an insulating element attached to and operated by that said frame which has rotative connection with said pivot, and a terminal having permanent electrical connection with said battery and carried and operated by said element into and out of contact with said member for making and breaking electrical communication from said member to said battery and energizing said lamp when said frames are swung apart to open the handbag and deenergizing said lamp when said frames are moved to closed position.

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