J. B. O'LEARY.

HANDCUFF HOLSTER.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 29, 1920.

1,413,290. Patented Apr. 18, 1922.

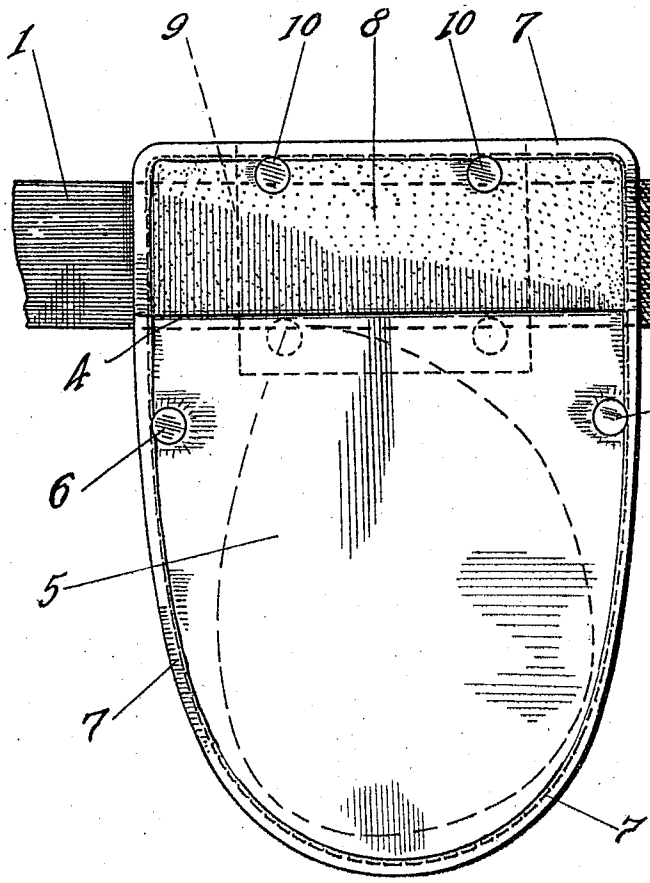


FIG. 1.

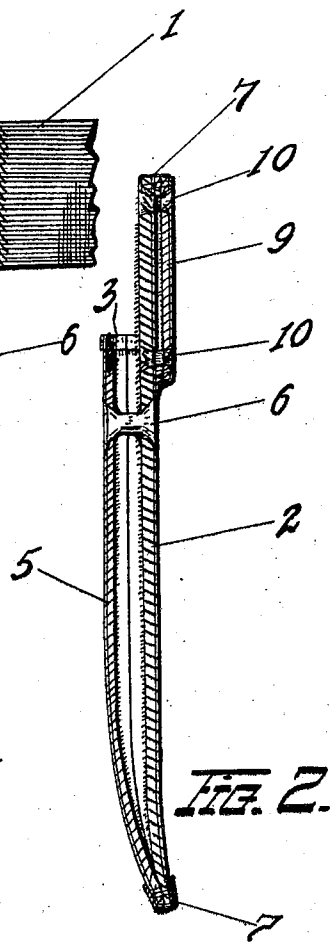


FIG. 2.

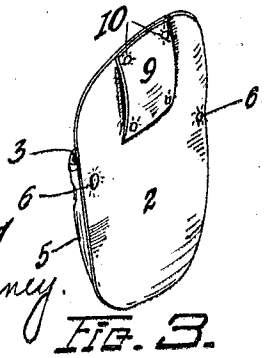


FIG. 3.

WITNESS:

M. Marcus Tilley

Franklin L. Sweeney.

INVENTOR.

J. B. O'Leary.

BY

H. H. Conner

his ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JEREMIAH B. O'LEARY, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

HANDCUFF HOLSTER.

1,413,290. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 18, 1922.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that JEREMIAH B. O'LEARY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, has invented certain new and useful Improvements in Handcuff Holsters, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing.

This invention refers to receptacles and more particularly to a device for holding and protecting hand-cuffs, and which for facility in reference in this specification is called a hand-cuff holster. The objects of this invention include the provision of a device for conveniently holding hand-cuffs and the like; to protect same against moisture and effects tending to oxidize abnormally the parts thereof: to provide for a means for holding the hand-cuffs against accidental falling out and yet be easily removable when positive efforts are made to do so; to provide an arrangement whereby the handcuffs will come out of the holster in a way that will assist in its availability for use; to provide means whereby it may be suitably attached as the part of the conventional equipment of a protective agent; to provide means or an arrangement whereby the hand-cuffs will not catch in being removed but rather will snap out thereof; and many other objects which will become apparent as the invention is more fully set forth.

The use of protectors for hand-cuffs is practically a new art due to the fact, that devices used for holding them in the past have proved unsuitable, and have in general discouraged invention in the line due to the experience they gave. This invention meets the objections which are met with in the use of hand-cuffs. The usual way to keep them, is by placing them in the hip or rear pocket of the trousers. In this location they become moist from perspiration and within a few hours cause rust to appear on the handcuffs which tends to greatly interfere with their important function of service. The hand-cuffs get on the folds or creases in the trousers when being pulled out or rip the edges of the pocket, which also frequently injures some part of the mechanism of the hand-cuffs. It is needless to detail the importance of the hand-cuffs in the emergencies where they become desirable, and the value of having them provided with any arrangement that will increase their efficiency. This invention provides a receptacle that is provided with a restricted portion adjacent to the mouth thereof, that serves not only to prevent the falling out of the cuffs but also as a fulcrum on which to catch the side of the hand-cuffs when they are given a positive pull and thereby assist in their coming out with facility and without giving a tearing stress to the receptacle. It is composed of material which has been empirically found most suitable for the purpose, and consists of a rubberized fabric surmounted on one side with a heavy felt. The felt portion is used interiorly, and serves to mould itself into the contour of the hand-cuffs and prevent it rattling or moving about undesirably, as well closing over portions where dust and the like might tend to cause trouble sooner or later. The felt readily adapts itself to the requirement when the hand-cuff is given a proper pull, and it resiliently depresses and forms a somewhat frictionless surface on which to slide the hand-cuffs over. The outside covering prevents the ingress of moisture, and also gives a stiffness to the holster that enables the hand-cuffs to be inserted or without catching on folds or creases that other materials are apt to make. The holster is also arranged to prevent the handcuffs from catching on the belt or trousers buttons, and with a belt attachment that enables the devices to be more readily bound to the belt and also be readily slidable thereon.

In the appended drawings which show modifications of this invention by way of example:—

Figure 1 indicates a hand-cuff holster embodying this invention.

Figure 2 indicates a general sectional view through the holster shown in Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a view in perspective of the holster shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

In the construction shown in the drawings, the character 1, indicates a conventional belt, to which is slidably attached a hand-cuff holster. This holster consists of a back 2 of rubberized fabric having a felt mat securely cemented thereon, the felt being faced towards the interior of the holster, as indicated in the drawings. This back is not only deep enough for the one side of the hand-cuff but also extends up above the mouth 3 of the holster, so as to reach above the belt 1, and thereby act as a protector against the hand-cuff coming into contact with the belt when the same is removed. Attention may here be called to the fact, that the holster only holds one cuff or side of the hand-cuffs at a time, the other hangs over the outside of the holster with the chain on the edge 4 at the mouth of the holster. The front of the holster consists of a piece 5 of the same material as the back, with its felt face disposed interiorly. The front is long enough to hold the side of the hand-cuffs wholly below its restricting posts 6, and allow the chain of the hand-cuffs to be supported on the upper edge 4.

The front 5 is sewed to the back 2 along the edges which are then reinforced with an edging 7 of rubberized material. The posts 6 which are attached like rivets and are preferably of brass, also serve to strengthen the back and front against separation, in addition to being a lock to prevent the hand-cuffs falling out. They also act as a spacer to keep the mouth open sufficiently to permit the ready insertion of the hand-cuff.

The width of the interior of the holster is sufficient at the posts or therebetween to permit the side of the handcuff to go through. The projecting portion 8 of the back has a belt holder 9 secured to it, by means of sewing and also posts 10, which latter act as spacers to keep the holder 9 open and thereby enable the holster to be slid on the belt without any difficulty.

The shape of the pocket for the hand-cuff is curved somewhat on the contour of the hand-cuff itself, and as indicated in the drawings. The sides are symmetrical so that the hand-cuffs can be used either on the right or left side of the person and be just as available for use. The holder extends over the central portion of the back and not to the edges thereof, which feature gives the back a greater flexibility and enables it to more easily adapt itself to the belt. The posts 10 take the wear and prevent any undue binding.

The operation of the device is as follows: The handcuff is raised to the mouth of the holster given a push and it clicks past the posts 6 and is locked in place thereby as well as by the material of the holster. The shape of the holster places the handcuff in its natural proper position, that is with the chain centrally in the mouth of the pocket. When it is needed, the official lifts up on the chain and the hand-cuff moves up, reaching the posts and will ride on the post towards the direction in which it is pulled. When it is pulled more it not only comes out with the pulling action, but also turns on the post and comes out under leverage and with a powerful snap. The shape of the holster also guides the movement of the hand-cuff so that the latter cannot catch underneath in any way. Should the handcuff holster be pulled in any direction it will ride on the posts 10 in such a way as to bring as little twisting action on the holster as possible and thereby prevent any tendency to crease under this severe state of things.

While but one general construction is shown in the drawings it is not desired to limit this application for patent to this particular form or in any other way, otherwise than limited by the prior art, as it is appreciated that other forms and constructions could be used that would make use of the same principles and come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:—

1. A handcuff holster comprising in combination a casing having its interior arranged to conform to the contour of a handcuff, a plurality of posts adjacent the mouth of the casing adapted to restrict the opening of the mouth and the passage from the lower portion of the casing to the mouth, means in the casing adapted to elastically fit on the parts of the hand-cuff placed therein that open into the mechanism thereof, a back extending from the casing above the mouth thereof, and means for attaching the back to a belt.

2. A hand-cuff holster comprising front and rear walls of flexible material secured along their side and lower edges to form a comparatively thin flat pocket having an open mouth at their unsecured edges, the said walls adapted to resiliently engage opposite faces of a hand-cuff placed therebetween, and means provided to project into the pocket adjacent the side edges thereof to yieldingly engage the side edges of a handcuff.

3. A hand-cuff holster comprising, substantially flat back and rear walls of leather having coinciding curved lower and straight sides that are stitched at the marginal edges thereof to form a substantially thin flat closure having an open mouth at the unstitched sides of the walls, rivets extending through the said walls that are located adjacent an edge of the open mouth and inter-

mediate the ends thereof to restrict the length of the said mouth and to exert a drag upon the handcuff being inserted into or withdrawn through the said open mouth, and a member stitched at its longitudinal edges to the outside face of a wall to form a loop for receiving and supporting a belt in such a manner as to not interfere with the insertion or withdrawal of a hand-cuff from the open mouth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JEREMIAH B. O'LEARY.

Witnesses:

A. P. CONNOR,

THOMAS H. STAPLETON.