June 6, 1944. L. L. GARDNER 2,350,503

BILLFOLD

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Fig. 1.

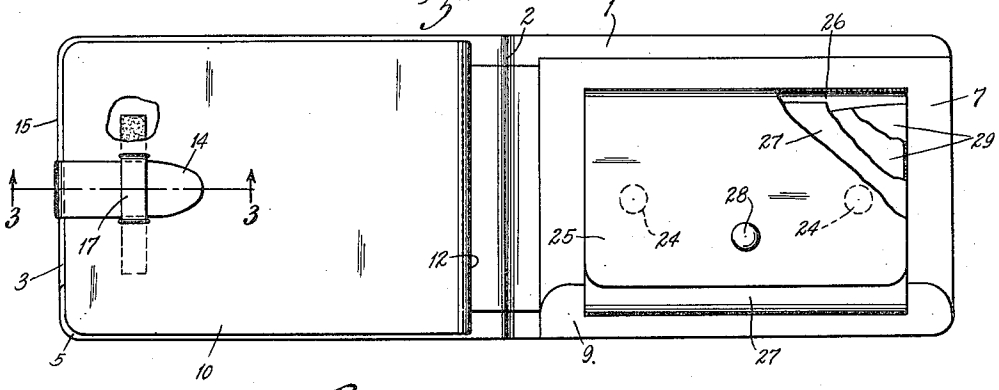


Fig. 2.

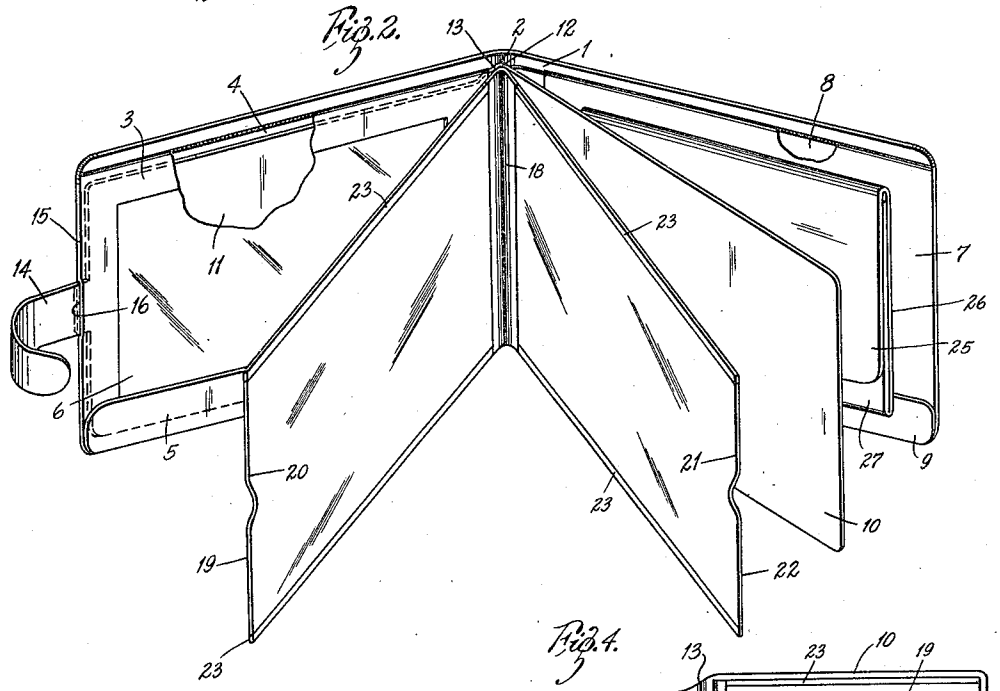


Fig. 4.

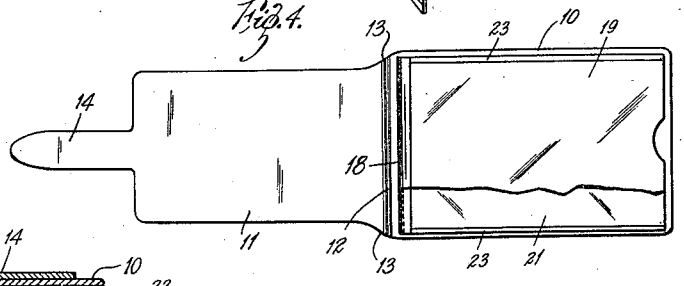
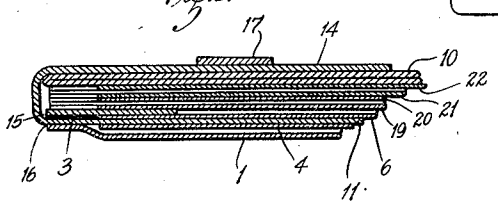


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR:
LEAH L. GARDNER,
BY John D. Rippey
HER ATTORNEY.

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Fig. 5.

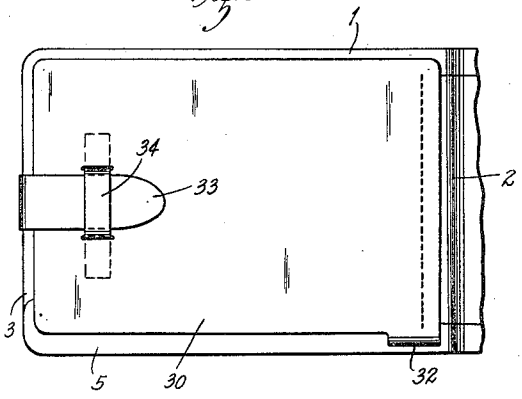


Fig. 6.

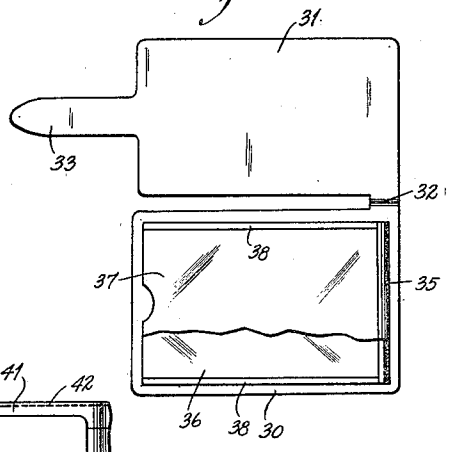


Fig. 7.

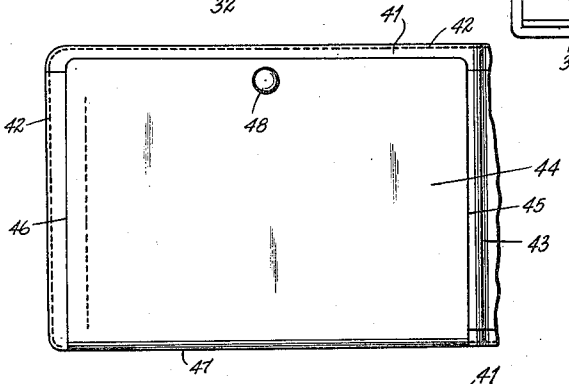
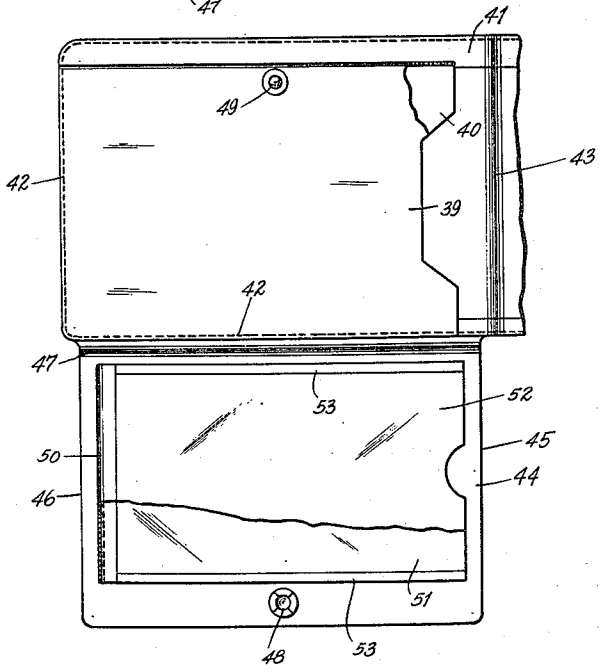


Fig. 8.



INVENTOR:
LEAH L. GARDNER,
BY John D. Rippey
HER ATTORNEY.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BILLFOLD

Leah L. Gardner, University City, Mo.

Application August 24, 1942, Serial No. 455,867

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—38)

This invention relates to bill folds; and has special reference to a bill fold having a short pocket wall attached to the concealed side thereof, in combination with an auxiliary case or enclosure that may be connected with the bill fold in a manner to cooperate with said short wall in a novel manner to support the auxiliary case or enclosure connected with the bill fold.

An object of the invention is to provide a bill fold that is foldable transversely about midway of its ends to enclose and conceal a short pocket on one of the end portions of the bill fold, in combination with an auxiliary case or enclosure having an end portion extendable into said short pocket and engageable against three sides thereof to assist in placing said case or enclosure in proper position on the bill fold, and means for interlocking the case or enclosure with the exposed wall of the said short pocket.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved bill fold that is foldable transversely approximately midway of its ends and provided with an auxiliary case or enclosure connected with the bill fold and with said short pocket in a novel cooperative relationship.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel foldable enclosure adapted for connection with a bill fold in a manner to hold the enclosure closed or to permit the said enclosure to be opened to afford access to the inside thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide a bill fold having an auxiliary pocket detachably secured thereto and formed with an open upper side, and means for closing the open side of said pocket.

Other objects will be apparent from the following description, reference being made to the annexed drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a plan view showing the bill fold extended or unfolded, and having the auxiliary case or enclosure attached to one end thereof and the detachable pocket connected with the other end thereof so that both said enclosure and said pocket will be covered and concealed when the bill fold is folded.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view with parts broken away and in section showing the manner in which my improved auxiliary case or enclosure is detachably connected with the bill fold.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the auxiliary case or enclosure detached from the bill fold and extended in open position, a part of one supporting frame or pocket being broken away.

Fig. 5 is a plan view showing another form of case or enclosure attached to the bill fold in a modified manner.

Fig. 6 is a plan view showing said other form of case or enclosure detached from the bill fold and extended to open position, a part of one of the pocket walls thereof being broken away.

Fig. 7 is a plan view showing another modification of the auxiliary case or enclosure.

Fig. 8 is a view showing the auxiliary case or enclosure of Fig. 7 extended to open position, one wall of one of the pockets thereof being removed.

The bill fold in which the present invention is embodied, or with which it is combined, comprises an elongated outer wall 1 having wall members attached thereto along a portion of their lower longitudinal edges and along their end edges. The upper longitudinal edge of said outer wall is unattached to the upper longitudinal edges of said wall members, so that said outer wall and said wall members cooperate to form an elongated pocket adapted to receive and enclose bills of currency and other papers. The completed bill fold is foldable transversely about midway of its ends along a transverse fold line 2. The wall members form relatively short pockets on the end portions of the bill fold. These relatively short pockets have open inner ends toward the fold line 2 and are closed at their outer ends and along their lower and upper edges.

As shown, a short pocket wall 3 is integral with one end of the wall 1 and is folded inwardly toward the fold line 2. A cooperating short pocket wall 4 is formed integral with the upper edge of the wall 3 and is folded to extend downwardly between the walls 1 and 3, and has its lower edge attached to the wall 3 and its inner end unattached to said wall 3. Thus, the walls 3 and 4 cooperate to form a relatively short pocket having an inner open end adjacent to the fold line 2 and having its outer end and lower and upper sides closed. The lower margin of the wall 3 is securely attached to the lower margin of the wall 1 by an inwardly and upwardly extended tab 5 formed integral with the lower edge of the wall 1 and terminating at the inner end of the wall 3 short of the transverse fold line 2. The wall 3 may include a transparent panel 6 so that cards and the like inserted in the pocket provided by the walls 3 and 4 may be read through said panel.

Another short pocket wall 7 is integral with the opposite end of the wall 1 from the short pocket wall 3 and is folded inwardly toward the fold line 2. It has a cooperating short pocket wall 8 integral with its upper edge and folded to

extend downwardly between the walls 1 and 7, having its lower edge attached to the wall 7 and its inner and outer ends unattached to said wall. The walls 7 and 8 cooperate to form a short pocket having its inner end open adjacent to the fold line 2 and having its outer end and upper and lower sides closed. The outer end of said short pocket is closed by the attachment of the walls 1 and 7 at their outer ends. An inwardly and upwardly extended tab 9 is formed integral with the lower edge of the wall 1 and is attached to the lower margin of the wall 7. The inner end of the tab 9 terminates at the inner end of the wall 7.

The auxiliary case or separate enclosure comprises a flexible and pliable wall of leather or the like, including a relatively wide end portion 10 and a relatively narrow end portion 11 integrally united by a transverse foldable hinge 12. Shoulders 13 are formed at the attached ends of the portions 10 and 11 and cooperate with the hinge 12 to define said portions from each other and also to engage against the inner end of the pocket 3—4 when the auxiliary case or separate enclosure is attached to the bill fold. The outer end of the portion 11 is formed midway of its upper and lower edges with a narrow freely bendable and pliable tongue 14. The integral connection 15 attaching the outer ends of the walls 1 and 3 is provided with a relatively short slot 16 having nearly the same length as the width of the tongue 14 so that said tongue may be extended through said slot when the end portion 11 is inserted within the pocket between the walls 3 and 4. There is a direct cooperation between the outer end of the portion 11 and the shoulders 13 at the inner end of said portion 11. The outer end of the portion 11 engages against the closed end 15 of the pocket formed between the walls 3 and 4, while the shoulders 13 engage against the attached portions of said walls. By this construction, the portion 11 may be made of the same length as, and somewhat narrower than the inside width of the pocket between the walls 3 and 4, thus considerably facilitating the proper insertion, and also the withdrawal, of said portion 11 without frictional contact with the side edges of said pocket. The tongue 14 extended through the relatively short slot 16, and the shoulders 13 engaged against the attached edges of the walls 3 and 4, directly cooperate to prevent lateral displacement of the auxiliary case or separate enclosure relative to the bill fold.

When said case or enclosure is attached to the bill fold, the end portion 10 may be folded outwardly toward the wall 3 with its outer end terminating inwardly beyond and protected by said wall 3. The tongue 14 may be folded inwardly and slipped through a loop 17 attached to the wall portion 10. Thus, the auxiliary case or separate enclosure may be detachably secured to the bill fold with the end of the portion 11 engaging against the end wall of the pocket and the tapered shoulders 13 held against the attachment between the inner and outer walls of the pocket to hold said case or enclosure from lateral displacement. In this proper position in which the auxiliary case or separate enclosure is detachably secured to the bill fold, the side edges and ends thereof are inwardly beyond the side edges and end of the bill fold and are guarded and protected thereby.

A hinge 18 is attached to the wider portion 10 adjacent to the shoulders 13 and inwardly beyond the hinge 12. When the portion 11 is extended into the pocket as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 with the end thereof engaging and abutting against the end wall of the pocket, and the shoulders 13 engaging the side edges of the pocket, the hinge 18 is inwardly beyond the end of the wall 3 so that said hinge may be freely operated without restraint by said wall 3. The part 15, and the end edge of the portion 11 of the elongated wall 10—11, constitute means on said walls for limiting extent of movement of said portion 11 into the pocket provided by the walls 3 and 4 and by said part 15; to prevent the hinge device 18 from entering said pocket; to prevent said hinge device from rolling, chafing, or otherwise marring the end of the wall 3; and to hold the parts in a position in which the hinge device 18 is at all times freely operative. That is, the part 15 attached to the short walls, and the end of the wall portion 11, prevent the hinge device 18 from pressing against the end of the short wall 3.

A number of pairs of transparent walls 19—20 and 21—22 have one end of each attached to the hinge 18 and the upper and lower margins of each pair of walls permanently attached together by flexible strips 23, leaving the outer ends of each pair of walls unattached. Thus, each pair of walls 19—20 and 21—22 forms a pocket open at one end and closed at the opposite end and along its upper and lower sides. When the auxiliary case or separate enclosure is closed, as shown in Fig. 1, the pockets therein are also closed; and, when said case or enclosure is opened as shown in Fig. 2, the pockets therein are also opened.

An auxiliary pocket for holding small change and other articles is detachably secured to the wall 7 by snap fasteners 24. A flap 25 in connection with the rear wall 26 of this auxiliary pocket is foldable downwardly against the front wall 27 and may be attached thereto by a familiar snap fastener device 28 which is releasable to afford access to the inside of the pocket. This pocket is open at its upper side, which is toward the open upper side of the pocket provided by the wall 1 and the attached wall members, and is closed at its ends by infolded end walls 29.

The auxiliary case or separate enclosure shown in Figs. 5 and 6 also comprises integrally connected flexible and pliable walls of leather or the like, including a relatively wide portion 30 analogous to the relatively wide portion 10, and a relatively narrow portion 31, similar to the portion 11. The wall portion 30 is integrally connected at its inner end with the inner end of the portion 31 by a hinge 32. The narrow portion 31 is formed with an extended tongue 33 in connection with its outer end adapted to extend through the slot 16 in the same manner and for the same purpose as the tongue 14. The portion 31 may be inserted in and withdrawn from the pocket between the walls 3 and 4, and the tongue 33 extended through the slot 16. The outer end of the portion 31 engages against the end wall of the pocket, and the edge of the integral hinge connection 32 may engage the inner end of the pocket. This leaves the wall portion 30 free to be folded up in closed position, as shown in Fig. 5, and held in that position by passing the tongue 33 through a loop 34. A hinge 35 is attached to the inner end of the wall portion 30 beyond the hinge connection 32. A number of pairs of transparent walls 36 and 37, like the pairs of transparent walls 19—20 and 21—22, have one end

of each attached to the hinge 35 and the upper and lower margins of each pair of walls permanently attached together by flexible strips 38, leaving the outer ends of each pair of walls unattached. Thus, each of said pairs of walls 36 and 37 forms a pocket open at one end, and closed at the opposite end and also along its upper and lower sides. When this auxiliary case or enclosure is closed as shown in Fig. 5, the pockets therein are also closed. When the case or enclosure is opened as shown in Fig. 2, the pockets therein are also opened and may be swung apart, as indicated in Fig. 2, or laid flatwise upon each other, as shown in Fig. 6. This auxiliary case or separate enclosure may, like that shown in Fig. 4, be mounted in or attached to the bill fold, or may be detached from the bill fold and used separately as desired. The bill fold to which the enclosure is shown attached (Fig. 5) is like that shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and like reference numerals are applied to like parts of the bill fold per se.

The device shown in Figs. 7 and 8 comprises an enclosure or case permanently connected with the bill fold so that the two may not be detached from each other. As shown, short pocket walls 39 and 40 are attached to the elongated outer wall 41 along their lower and outer end edges by stitches 42 or otherwise. The walls 39 and 40 are integrally connected along their upper edges to form an inwardly open pocket adjacent to the transverse fold line 43 of the bill fold. These wall members cooperate with the elongated outer wall 41 to form an elongated pocket adapted to receive and enclose bills of currency and other papers. The outer wall 41 is formed with a downwardly extended short wall 44, the inner edge 45 of which terminates adjacent to the transverse fold line 43 of the bill fold, while the outer edge 46 is spaced inwardly a short distance from the outer ends of the walls 39 and 41. The integral connection between the walls 41 and 44 comprises a hinge 47, so that the wall 41 may be folded upwardly to cover and enclose the wall 39, and may be secured in that position by a fastener element 48 connected with the wall 44 engaging a fastener element 49 connected with the wall 39.

A hinge 50 is attached to the outer end margin of the wall 44. A number of pairs of transparent walls 51 and 52 have one end of each attached to the hinge 50, and the upper and lower margins of each pair of walls permanently attached together by flexible strips 53, leaving the inner ends of each of said pairs of walls unattached. Thus, each pair of walls 51 and 52 forms a pocket open at one end and closed at the opposite end and along its upper and lower sides. When this case is closed as shown in Fig. 7, these pockets are enclosed between the walls 39 and 44; and, when the bill fold is folded, it is impossible for any of the card contents of said pockets to become detached or removed.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that this invention, which comprises an auxiliary case or enclosure connected with the bill fold in a novel manner, attains all of its intended objects and purposes. The bill fold may be folded transversely about midway of its ends to cover and enclose either specific type of enclosure. In the case of the invention shown in Figs. 1 and 5, the auxiliary case or enclosure engages both opposite ends of the short pocket wall device and cooperates directly therewith to hold the auxiliary case in proper position and prevent lateral displacement. The integral connection shown in Figs. 7 and 8 also prevents relative displacement of the auxiliary case and holds the parts permanently in proper relationship.

I claim:

1. In a bill fold having an elongated outer wall provided with a transverse fold line midway of its ends, two relatively short walls supported at the inner side of one end portion of said outer wall forming a pocket closed along its upper and lower sides and having its inner end open throughout the width of said pocket laterally beyond said fold line, a connection substantially closing the outer end of said pocket and attaching the outer end of one of said short walls to an end of said outer wall, said connection having a slot therethrough, an elongated wall having one end portion insertable in said pocket through said open end to engage the end of said portion against said connection and having another end portion foldable toward and from said first end portion, a hinge device attached to said second end portion and supported thereby beyond the inner end of said pocket when said first end portion is in said pocket and has its said end abutting against said connection, means forming a pocket having one end attached to said hinge device, a tongue integral with said first end portion of less width than said pocket removably extending through said slot and beyond said connection when said first end portion is wholly within said pocket, and means for attaching said tongue to said second end portion when said first end portion is wholly within said pocket as aforesaid.

2. In a bill fold having an elongated outer wall provided with a transverse fold line midway of its ends, two relatively short walls supported at the inner side of one end portion of said outer wall forming a pocket closed along its upper and lower side and having its inner end open throughout the width of said pocket laterally beyond said fold line, and a connection substantially closing the outer end of said pocket and attaching the outer end of the exposed one of said short walls to an end of said outer wall and having a relatively short slot therethrough; a wall portion insertable in said pocket through said open end to engage the end of said portion against said connection, a tongue attached to said wall portion projecting outwardly through said slot when said end of said portion is against said connection as aforesaid, a second wall portion having hinge connection with the inner end of said first wall portion and being foldable toward and away from said first wall portion, a pocket supported by said second wall portion, and means in connection with said second wall portion engageable by said tongue for holding said second wall portion folded toward said first wall portion and also preventing withdrawal of said first wall portion from said first named pocket.

LEAH L. GARDNER.