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C. PLAPLER

2,412,007

COMBINED HAND AND SHOPPING BAG

Filed Feb. 17, 1944

Fig. 1

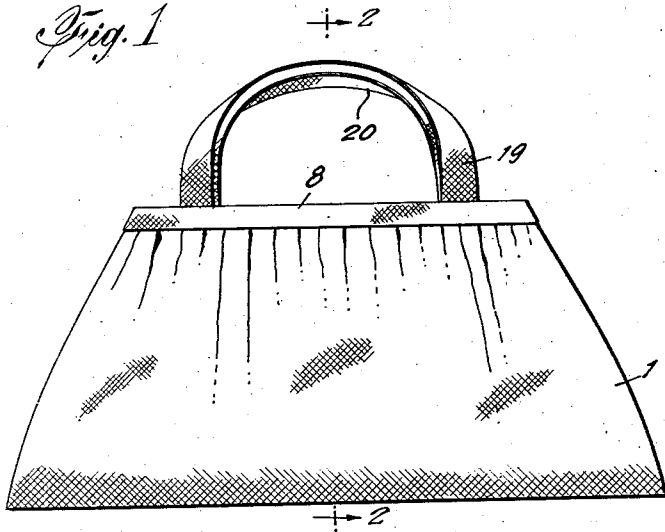


Fig. 2

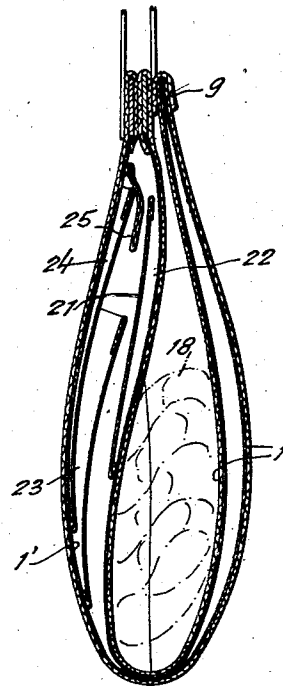


Fig. 3

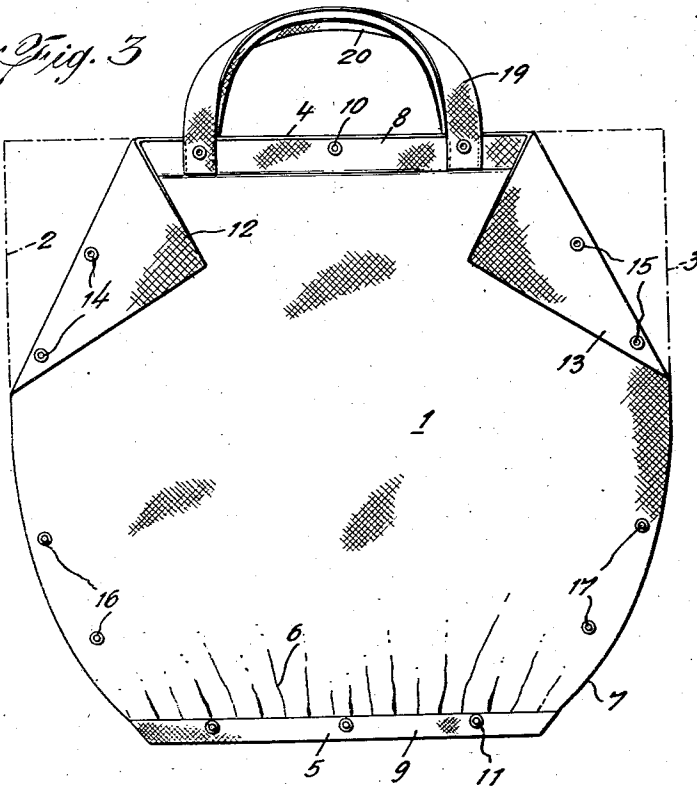
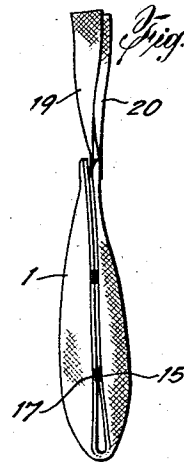


Fig. 4



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COMBINED HAND AND SHOPPING BAG

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2 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.7)

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The present invention is directed to bags, and particularly, of the type used by women for the storage of various articles. The invention is especially directed to a structure which combines the functions of the ordinary hand bag and shopping bag, and, in addition, provides storage space for holding various articles.

In the prior art, combined hand and shopping bags were known. Such structures were rather complicated and expensive to manufacture and bulky to carry. Also, when used as a hand bag, the appearance was not graceful or attractive. In many cases, the capacity of the shopping bag was rather small.

The present invention is intended and adapted to overcome the difficulties and disadvantages inherent in prior structures and to provide a combined hand and shopping bag which is simple in construction and requires a minimum of material with very little labor in its fabrication.

It is also among the objects of the present invention to provide a structure which may be converted from a hand bag to a shopping bag, and vice versa, by a very simple manipulation and in which the hand bag is graceful and attractive in appearance.

It is further among the objects of the present invention to provide a combined hand and shopping bag wherein the articles which are usually carried in a hand bag may be readily accessible, even though the bag is used as a shopping bag and contains many miscellaneous articles.

It is still further among the objects of the present invention to provide a combined hand and shopping bag which may be used for carrying various articles, such as knitting, without changing the shape of the bag, and which has the advantage that when the outside flap of the bag is opened or dropped, the knitting articles are before the individual for use without the necessity of searching for the same within the bag.

In practicing the present invention, I provide a bag structure the body of which is made up of two substantially rectangular pieces of fabric sewn together along the sides and bottom to form a bag. At the upper open end thereof there is provided a pair of handles for convenience in carrying. The upper corners of the bag are folded inwardly, reducing the length of the upper edge. The lower edge of the bag is shirred or pleated to an extent so that the length of the bottom is approximately equal to the length of the top. Temporary fastening means are provided whereby the bottom may be fastened to the top of the bag when it is to be used for knitting purposes.

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In the accompanying drawing, constituting a part hereof, and in which like reference characters indicate like parts:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a combined hand and shopping bag made in accordance with the present invention, showing the same when used as a hand bag;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical cross-sectional view thereof taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the bag in partly opened position to be used as a shopping bag; and

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of the bag as shown in Fig. 1.

The bag is formed of two rectangular pieces of fabric 1 which are sewed together along the longitudinal edges 2 and 3 thereof, the top edges 4 being left open to allow access to the bag. A lining 1' may be provided within at least the upper portion of the bag structure. The bottom edge 5 is formed with pleats 6 and the pieces of fabric sewn together along said bottom edge forming an inwardly curved portion 7.

Binding or tape 8 is stitched to the upper edge of fabric 1 and in some cases, stiffening members may be introduced therein. A similar binding tape 9, with or without stiffening members, is sewn at the lower edge 5. Snap fasteners 10 are secured in the upper edge 4 and co-acting members 11 are suitably placed in the lower edge 5. The upper corners 12 and 13 are folded inwardly to lie flat against fabric 1, as shown in Fig. 3. The flaps 12 and 13 are provided respectively with snap fasteners 14 and 15, adapted to coact with complementary fastening members 16 and 17 placed along the respective edges 2 and 3 of fabric 1.

When the bag is to be used for shopping purposes, the co-acting fasteners 10—11 are opened, allowing the lower half of the bag to assume the position of Fig. 3. The flaps 12 and 13 are opened to take the positions shown by the broken lines of Fig. 3. The stiffening members in binding 8 allows a considerable weight of articles to be placed in the shopping bag without distorting the structure or causing sagging of the upper edge of the bag. When in the closed position and used as a hand bag, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, a space 18 is provided within the fold of the bag for the reception of such articles as wool for knitting, or partially finished knitted articles.

Handles 19 and 20 are secured to the upper edges 4 of the two pieces of fabric 1, and such handles are firmly secured to the upper edge of the bag to enable it to carry the desired load.

In the upper portion of the bag, within the lining thereof, there is sewed a substantially rectangular piece of fabric 21 forming a pocket 22 on one side of the hand bag. Similarly, a piece of fabric is sewed to the other side of the hand bag to form a pocket 23. Usually, an additional pocket 24 having a flap 25 or other covering means is provided within the hand bag.

By reason of this structure, most of the articles usually carried in a hand bag may be carried within the pockets 22, 23 and 24, and they are readily accessible at all times. When the bag is opened to provide a shopping bag, these articles remain in the pockets at the upper part thereof and even though the bag may be completely filled with articles, the pockets being at the upper end thereof may be easily reached for the removal or insertion of articles.

Although I have described the invention setting forth a single specific embodiment thereof, the invention is not limited to the details of construction as shown and described herein. It is, of course, a simple matter to change many of the details by the substitution of equivalent elements, or embellishments, and other variations. For instance, the shirred portion 6 may be made of side, box or inverted pleats or tucks. In place of the snap fasteners shown herein, other fastening devices, such as buttons, hooks and eyes, zippers, or other types, may be used. The lining may be entirely omitted or may be omitted in certain portions, and the bag may be half lined either at the upper or hand bag side or only on one side of the hand bag portion. The pockets may be free from lining material. The stiffening which may be used at the upper or lower edges, or both, may be of any suitable material, such as cardboard, whalebone, wood, corset stays or metal. The handles may be made of any suitable form, size or shape and of any suitable material. They may be attached to the bag either inside of fabric 1 or outside, or within the binding, and they may be sewn, riveted or stapled.

The materials used may be ordinary fabrics, leather, or felt, and may be of any suitable material, such as linen, cotton, silk, or the like, with or without ornamentation or embellishment. The bag may even be made of straw or other fiber, either in whole or in part.

From the above, it will be noted that many variations in the details are possible within the spirit of the invention without departing therefrom.

What I claim is:

1. A combined hand and shopping bag comprising a pair of substantially rectangular pieces of fabric sewn together along three of the sides thereof to form a bag, the fourth side being the top of said bag and being open, said top when fully open being wider than the bottom, a handle secured to said top, the upper corners of said bag including part of the upper edge and sides being foldable inwardly, the lines of said folds when extended upwardly meeting at an acute angle, the bottom of said bag being shirred in fixed position to reduce the width thereof to approximate the width of said top with the corners folded in, said bottom having a plurality of fasteners spaced across substantially the entire bottom and the lower portion of the sides thereof, said fasteners being adapted to be removably attached to the said top and to the inclined edges of said folds, said structure providing a shopping bag when fully opened, a hand bag when folded, and a space within said fold for holding articles.

2. A combined hand and shopping bag comprising a pair of substantially rectangular pieces of fabric sewn together along three of the sides thereof to form a bag, the fourth side being the top of said bag and being open, said top when fully open being wider than the bottom, a handle secured to said top, the upper corners of said bag including part of the upper edge and sides being foldable inwardly, the lines of said folds when extended upwardly meeting at an acute angle, the width of said top when in folded condition being substantially the same as the width of the bottom, pockets inside of said bag at the upper portion thereof for the reception of small articles and rendering the same accessible when said bag is in fully open position, the bottom of said bag having a plurality of fasteners spaced across substantially the entire bottom and the lower portion of the sides thereof, said fasteners being adapted to be removably attached to the said top and to the inclined edges of said folds, said structure providing a shopping bag when fully opened, a hand bag when folded, and a space within said fold for holding articles.

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