

April 22, 1930.

J. N. LOWE

1,755,548

HAND BAG

Filed Aug. 23, 1927

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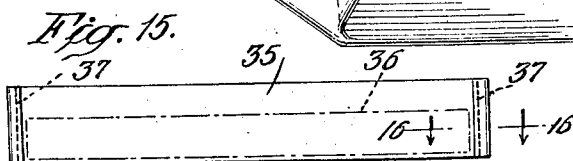
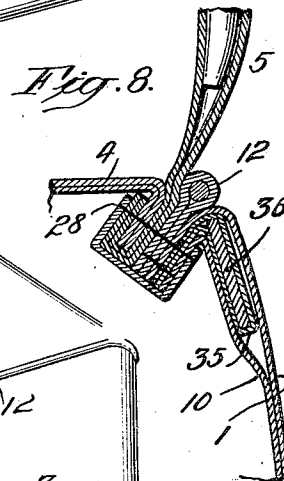
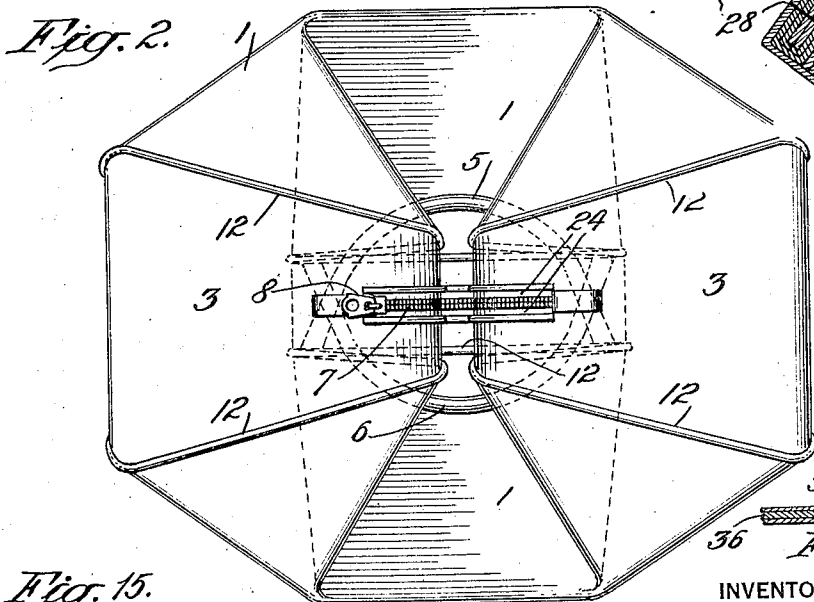
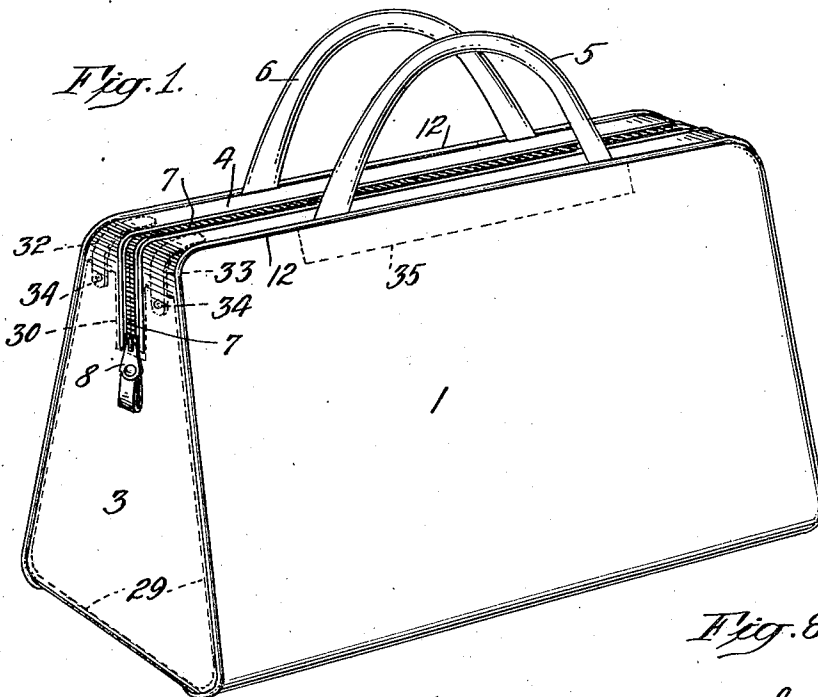


Fig. 16.

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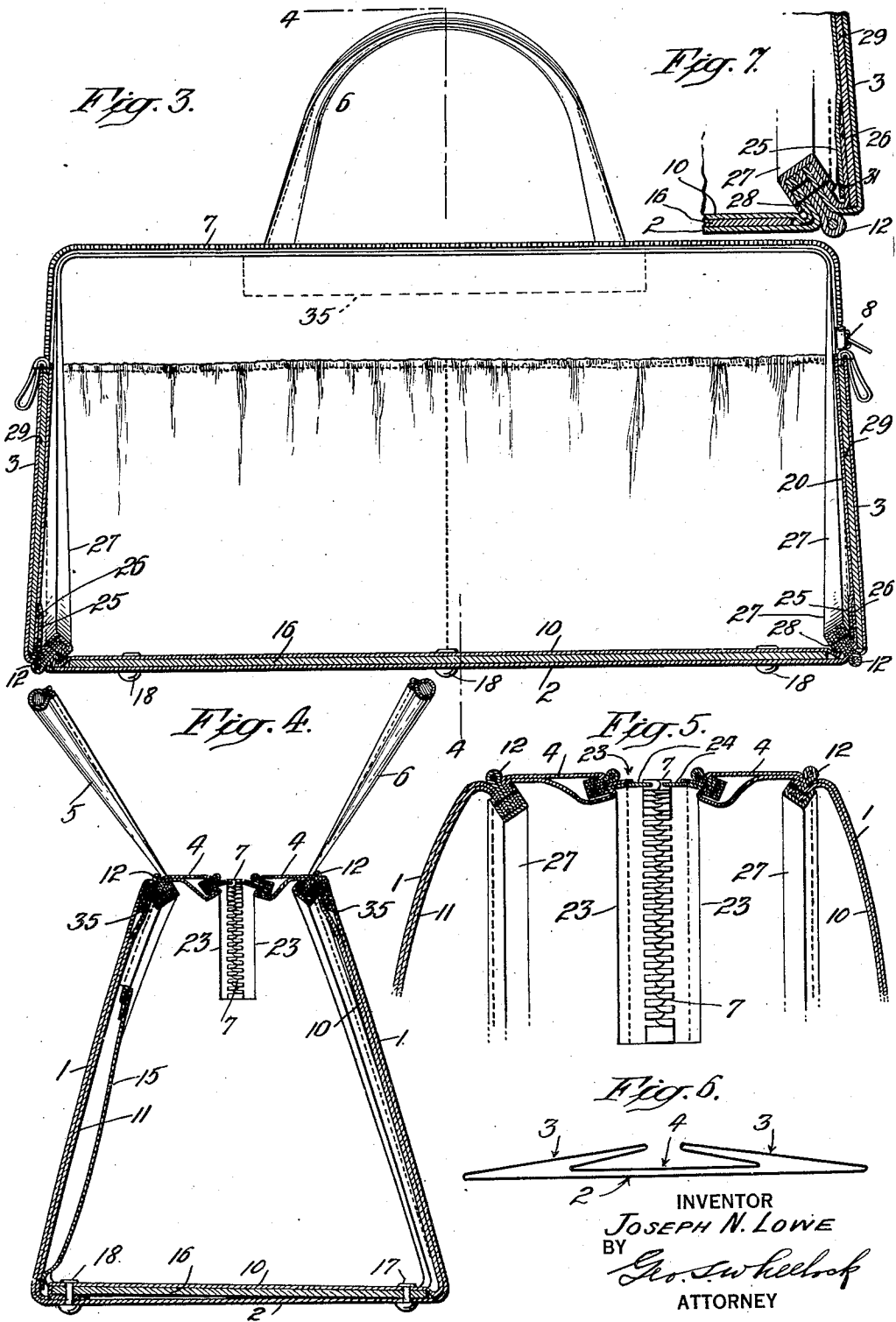
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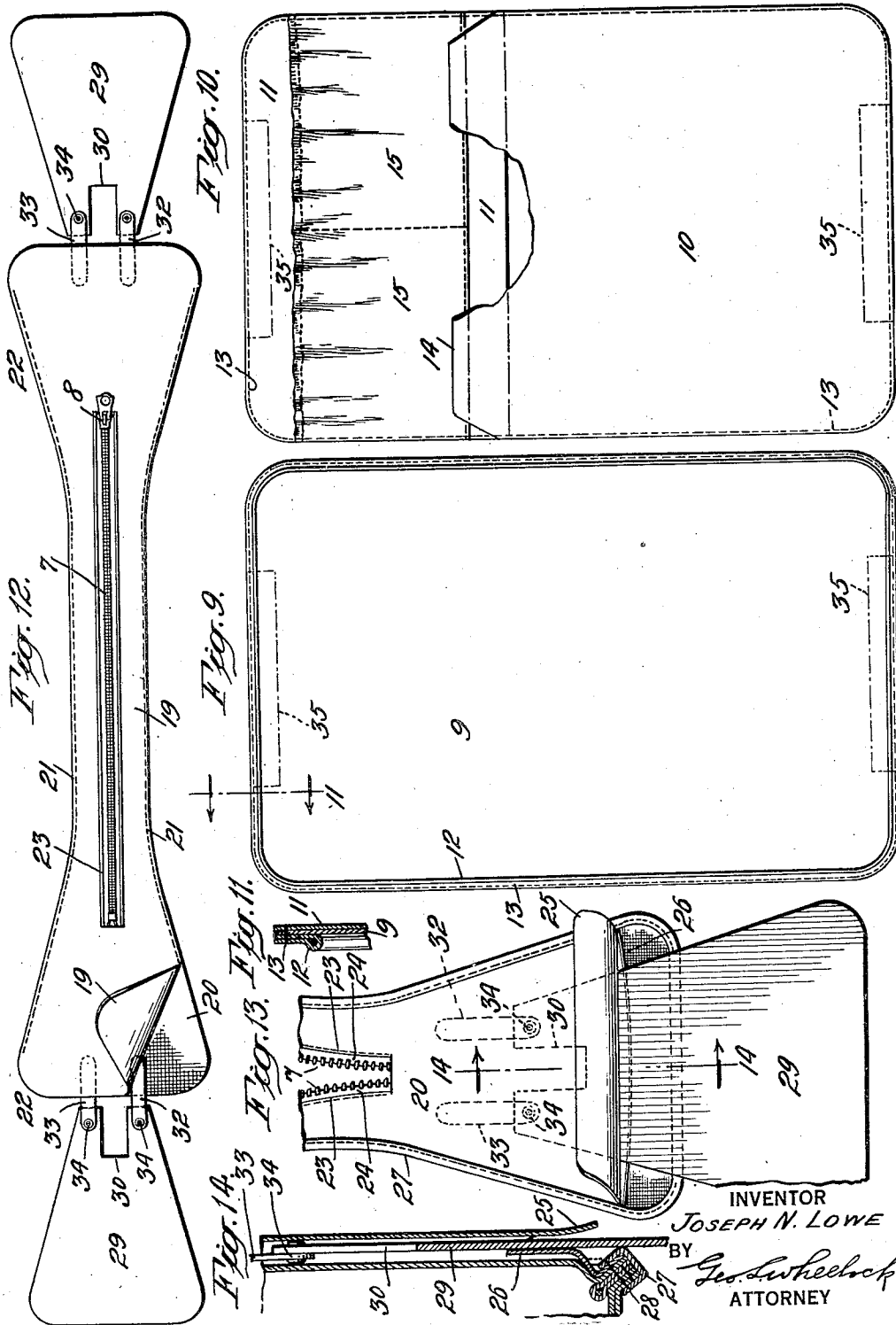
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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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HAND BAG

Application filed August 23, 1927. Serial No. 214,901.

This invention relates preferably to that type of hand bag which is known as the "Boston" bag. An object of the invention is to provide a hand bag which may be folded flat into a small space, the bag when folded assuming a symmetrical compact form so that it may be neatly packed into another bag or a trunk, and when unfolded may be used as a small hand bag. When unfolded the bag may be filled to full size and, due to the manner in which it folds, the bag when unfolded and full or partly filled presents a neat and smooth and practically uncreased appearance, especially when made of a good quality of flexible leather or the like. While the improved hand bag is adapted to fold and unfold, its construction is such as to enable certain walls thereof to be fairly stiff, especially the end walls, although covered by cloth or leather. The improved hand bag is preferably so constructed that the handles may be folded within the material of the bag and will not protrude as loose appendages. The bag is preferably made without previously formed creases to more readily enable folding, although such creases may be performed in the bag.

The above being among the objects of the present invention, the same consists of certain features of construction and combinations of parts to be hereinafter described and then claimed with reference to the accompanying drawings illustrating one embodiment of the invention, in which,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved hand bag, opened out for use;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the bag when folded flat;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical section of the bag through the mouth thereof;

Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail section of the upper portion of the bag according to Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a diagram indicating the general contour of the main parts of the bag when folded flat;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged transverse section through the seam of the bag which is shown in smaller transverse section in Fig. 3;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged transverse section through the seam at the point where a handle is attached;

Fig. 9 is a view of the outer surface of the main piece or blank for forming the bag;

Fig. 10 is a view of the other side of the main piece, to show the linings thereon;

Fig. 11 is a detail transverse section on the line 11—11 of Fig. 9;

Fig. 12 is a plan of a strip of flexible material or blank for forming the ends and top of the bag, stiffening pieces therefor being shown alongside thereof;

Fig. 13 is an enlarged view of one end of the flexible strip of Fig. 12, showing how a stiffening piece may be combined therewith;

Fig. 14 is an enlarged section on the line 14—14 of Fig. 13;

Fig. 15 is a detail of corner reinforcing means; and

Fig. 16 is an enlarged section on line 16—16, Fig. 15.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive, the improved folding hand bag is shown as comprising sides 1, a bottom 2, ends 3, and a top 4, so as to provide suitable and properly proportioned walls for the body of the bag, and which are principally composed of flexible material. The top 4 of the bag has a mouth portion to be fully described hereinafter, and is provided with a pair of handles 5, 6, preferably of flexible material, one at each side of the mouth portion. The bag shown in Fig. 1 may be folded down flat, as shown in Figs. 2 and 6, the handles being first folded down, and the ends and portions of the sides being folded down thereover, so that the handles are more or less enclosed within the material of the bag. Preferably the bag when unfolded is of generally oblong rectangular shape with the sides converging towards the mouth of the bag, the same being provided with a pair of handles so that the type of bag known as the "Boston" bag is more or less simulated, and preferably when the bag is folded down and flattened it will be of octagonal shape, although the type of bag may of course be changed and the shape of the bag when folded and unfolded may also be changed.

Hookless fastening means 7 are preferably provided for the mouth of the bag, the same being operable by means of a slide 8 in well known manner.

Before particularizing the novel features of the bag itself when complete, the pieces of flexible material from which the bag is preferably constructed will first be described. Referring to Figs. 9, 10 and 11, a blank or main piece 9 of flexible material such as leather or imitation leather is provided for forming the sides 1 and the bottom 2 of the bag. To the inner surface of the main piece 9 a major lining 10 and a minor lining 11 are secured, these linings being preferably of light fabrics. The major lining 10 is of the same width as the main piece 9 and is approximately two thirds of the length thereof, while the minor lining 11 which is also of the same width is about one third of the length of the main piece 9, or a little more.

As indicated more clearly in Fig. 11, the two linings 10 and 11 and the main piece 9 are secured to a piping strip 12 by a line of stitches 13, so that in the combined piece the raw edges will be outward, while the bead of the piping will be inward. This is before the members 9, 10, 11 and 12 are incorporated in the bag itself. The major lining 10 is left free for a short length of its inner end so as to provide a flap or free portion 14, and to thereby leave a gap or opening between it and the main piece 9. There is also secured to the inner side of the main piece 9 a strip of material in such way as to provide pockets 15, 15', for the ultimate bag.

Before the bag is completed, stiffening means 16 are secured to the main lining 10, for the ultimate bottom of the bag. Such means are only shown in Figs. 3 and 4 but it will be understood that the stiffening means are applied to the main lining 10 before the bag is completed. Preferably the stiffening means consists of a piece of cardboard or the like, the same being secured to the lining 10 and the bag bottom by means of rivets 17, 18, so that in the completed bag the rivets 17 will be at one side of the bottom of the bag and the rivets 18 at the other side. Also, before the bag is completed the edge of the flap 14 is turned over the stiffening means 16 so as to be secured by the same rivets 18. It will be understood that the stiffening means 16 are inserted into the pocket between the major lining 10 and the main piece 9 but that it does not extend the full length of the lining, so that it will coincide substantially with the bag bottom when the bag is completed.

Referring to Figs. 12, 13 and 14 there is shown a strip 19 of flexible material, such as leather or imitation leather, for forming the ends and top of the ultimate bag. To the inner surface of strip 19 there is secured a lining fabric 20 of suitable material by means of side lines of stitches 21, the ends being

unstitched at this point in the manufacture of the bag. As will be seen from Fig. 12, the strip 19 and its lining 20 are formed at the ends into lobes 22. A slot 23 is formed longitudinally of the strip 19 and lining 20 for constituting the mouth of the ultimate bag, and the mouth is defined by tapes 24 for the hookless fastening means 7, such tapes being stitched to the adjacent edges of the strip 19. The ends of the strip 19 and the lining 20 are left free so that the ends of the lining provide flaps 25. Small pieces 26 of lining fabric are secured at one edge to the edge of the strip 19 so as to lie underneath the free flaps 25.

The method of making the improved hand bag from the described main piece 9, strip 19 and attached pieces will be clear to those skilled in the art when it is stated that the improved hand bag is made wrong side out in the first instance. A suitable sewing machine is employed for stitching the strip 19 to the main piece 9 so that the attached pieces as well will all be properly stitched together in seams such as shown in Figs. 7 and 14. The edges of the pieces are placed together wrong side out and brought between the sides of a binding strip 27 of flexible material and secured by a line of stitching 28, the edges of the strip 19 and the main piece 9 being gradually brought together by hand as the bag is being stitched, so that when the said edges with the binding are all stitched together a bag will be produced wrong side out, with the seam as shown in Fig. 14.

Preferably the bottom stiffening means are applied after the pieces of the side walls of the bag are stitched together.

Referring again to Figs. 12, 13 and 14, tapered stiffening means or card boards 29 are shown, the tapers thereof corresponding generally to the taper of the lobes 22 of the strip 19. One of these tapered stiffening boards is inserted in the pocket at each end of the strip 19, and each stiffening board is provided with a recess 30 in its smaller end so that when each stiffening board or piece is fully inserted between each end of the strip 19 and lining 20, the recess 30 will coincide more or less with the ends of the slot 23, so that there will be stiffening for a certain distance at each end of the slot as well as to the extremities of the strip 19 and lining 20. To complete the insertion of each stiffening board 29 its wider end is tucked underneath the short piece of lining 26, and then the linings 20 and 26 are tacked together at 31 so as to fully enclose the stiffening board as indicated in Fig. 7, in which the bag is shown as having been turned. The described parts of the bag having been thus assembled and finally stitched together with the bag wrong side out, the bag may now be turned right side out to the shape shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 4. It will be seen that the main piece 9 forms the bottom

2 and the sides 1 of the completed bag, and that the flexible strip 19 ultimately forms, by means of lobes 22, the tapering ends 3 of the bag and the top of the bag provided with hookless fastening means. The bottom stiffening board 16 is secured and riveted in place after the bag has been turned right side out.

Other desirable improvements relate to means for reinforcing the bag at the upper corners of the ends and at the side corners of the top. Referring to Figs. 12, 13 and 14, the end stiffening boards 29 are provided with extensions 32, 33, preferably composed of stiff lengths of fiber board these extensions being connected therewith by means of pivots 34. The extensions 32, 33 are located at both sides of the recess 30 in each stiffening means 29 and extending outwardly from the recess 30 or in the same direction as the recess. It will be seen that when each stiffening means 29 is inserted between the flexible strip 19 of body material and the lining 20, the extensions 32, 33 are inserted first and when each stiffening means is pressed home the extensions 32, 33 will enter to both sides of the mouth of the bag. When the bag is completed the extensions 32, 33 will turn the end corners thereof, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1, so as to full out the said corners and keep them distended more or less against inwardly creasing or folding. In some such manner the said corners are thus preferably kept smooth, and it is apparent that due to the movable connection of the extensions 32, 33 with the stiffening means 29 they will move so as to allow the opening or closing movement of the mouth portions of the bag where the latter extend around the said corners of the bag.

The handles 5, 6 of the bag are preferably attached thereto during the act of stitching the pieces of the bag together wrong side out, so that the ends of the handles will be stitched within the seams which connect the pieces of the bag together. In this way the handles will be intimately incorporated with the bag and can be conveniently folded down so as to overlap each other before the ends of the bag are folded down, the handles being below the ends of the bag when the bag is folded, as is clear from Fig. 2.

If considerable weight is to be imposed on the bag, it is preferred to reinforce the top side corners of the bag in the region of the handles 5, 6. Preferably such reinforcement is accomplished by means indicated in dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 3 and shown in detail in Figs. 8, 15 and 16. A piece 35 of flexible fabric is folded longitudinally and within it is placed a reinforcing strip 36 of card or fiber board, the free side edges of the piece of fabric being preferably then stitched together, and thereafter the ends of the said fabric being turned over and the strip 36 closed within the fabric by lines of stitching

37. The strip 36 is sufficiently narrower than the folded piece of fabric 35 as to leave a side length of the fabric unstiffened, to enable it to be stitched into the structure of the bag. There are two of the strips 36, thus enclosed by fabric, incorporated with the bag, and the unstiffened side portions of the pieces of fabric 35 are stitched and secured within the top side corners of the bag when the seams are then completed by the lines of stitching 28, as clearly shown in Fig. 8. These stiffening strips 36 are thus secured in the same seams in which the handles 5, 6 are secured, so that they are in the region of the handles and so that, when the bag is turned right side out, the said stiffening strips 36 will lie within and along the corners of the bag just outside the points of attachment of the handles.

These stiffening strips 36 distribute the strain from the handles 5, 6 and reinforce the adjacent corners of the bag, tending to keep the same smooth and free from wrinkling or creasing.

It will be seen that according to the present invention a very attractive type of hand bag is produced, the ends of which are preferably stiffened so that they may be readily folded down and to compel the other parts to fold accordingly. Also, under the present invention a type of hand bag may be produced which is of very light weight considering the durability and inherent strength of the bag.

It is obvious that the invention is susceptible of more or less modification, as parts may be omitted, added and substituted without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A hand bag, comprising flexible ends and mouth portions, the mouth portions being presented edgewise towards each other, and extending from below the top of the bag and along the top, sides secured to the outer edges of the mouth portions forming the top of the bag, and the mouth portions defining a mouth for the bag, and stiffening means substantially coextensive with the area of the ends and having recesses coinciding with the terminals of the mouth.

2. A hand bag, comprising flexible ends having linings, mouth portions extending from below the top of the bag and along the top, sides secured to the mouth portions, the mouth portions defining a mouth for the bag, and stiffening boards for the ends having recesses coinciding with the terminals of the mouth, the boards being inserted between the linings and the ends.

3. As an article of manufacture for hand bags, a strip of flexible material for forming the ends and top of a bag, and a lining secured to the edges of the strip, the strip and lining being longitudinally slotted to form a bag-mouth, and the outer ends of the lining being free from the strip to provide gaps through

which stiffening means may be inserted to lie between the strip and lining.

4. As an article of manufacture for hand bags, a strip of flexible material for forming the ends and top of a bag, and a lining secured to the edges of the strip, the strip and lining being longitudinally slotted to form a bag-mouth, and the outer ends of the lining being free from the strip to provide gaps through which stiffening means may be inserted to lie between the strip and lining, the strip having lobes extending from the region of the terminals of its slot.

5. A hand bag, comprising stiffened ends which are foldable inwardly toward the bottom of the bag, and sides which are foldable from the bottom outwardly, the ends foldable over the sides, the bag having a top with an openable and closable mouth extending from end to end, and corner fulling extensions from the stiffening of the ends and located in the corners between the ends and top.

6. A hand bag comprising a body of flexible material, stiffening means for the ends of the bag, and extensions from the stiffening means, turning the end corners of the bag and adapted to full out and sustain such corners when the bag is in using condition.

7. A hand bag, comprising a body of flexible material, stiffening means for the ends of the bag, the bag having a mouth extending from end to end, and extensions from the stiffening means, turning the end corners of the bag and adapted to full out and sustain such corners when the bag is in using condition, said extensions being disposed at opposite sides of the ends of the mouth.

8. A hand bag, comprising a body of flexible material having substantially flat and parallel top and bottom portions, and provided with seams where the top and side portions meet, and a pair of opposite loops to form handles, one of each being secured in each seam.

9. A hand bag, comprising a body of flexible material, having substantially flat and parallel top and bottom portions, and provided with seams where the top and side portions meet, the top portion of the bag having an openable and closable mouth extending substantially midway between and parallel with the seams, and loop shaped handle members secured in the seams, and reinforcing strips secured in the said seams at points directly adjacent the handles, such strips being parallel with the seams.

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