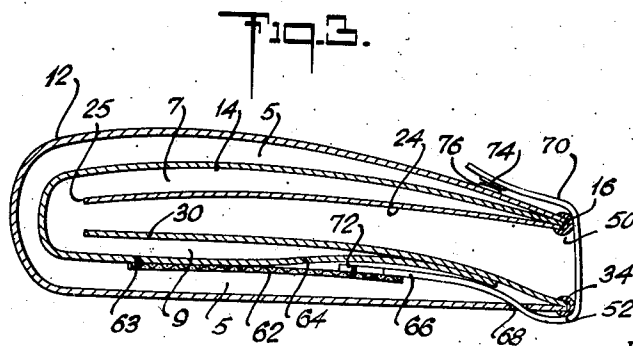
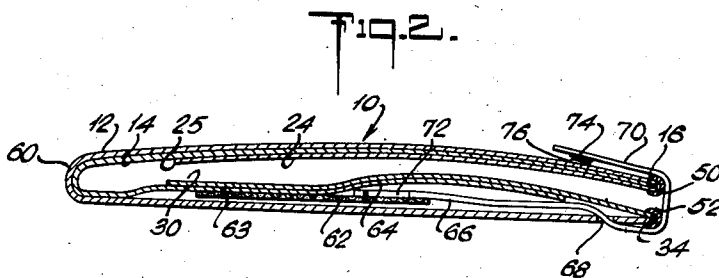
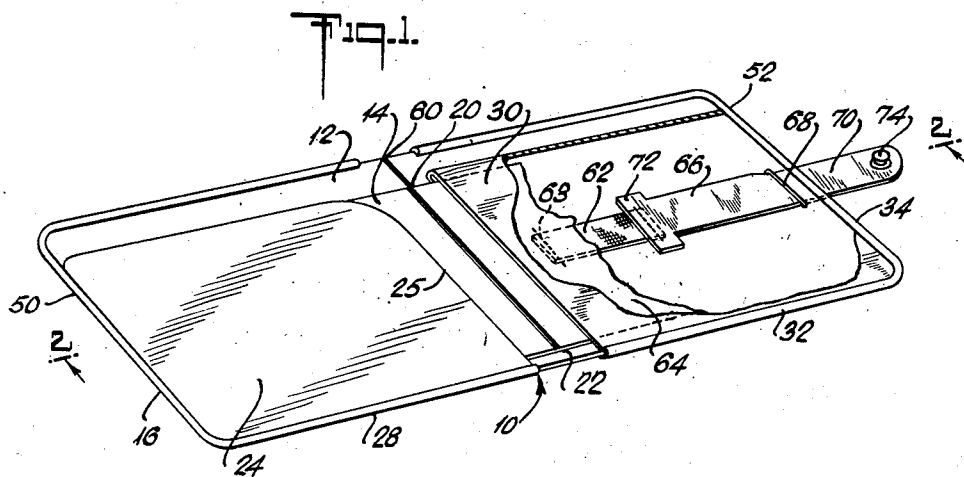


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D. J. NASH
CLOSURE FOR WALLETTS OR BILLFOLDS

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INVENTOR.
DANIEL J. NASH.

BY
William R. Liberman
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CLOSURE FOR WALLETTS OR BILLFOLDS

Daniel J. Nash, Jersey City, N. J., assignor to
Nash Inc., Jersey City, N. J., a corporation of
New Jersey

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The present invention relates generally to billfolds; that is, wallets of the fold-over type wherein an originally elongated wallet is folded in half, crosswise, and its length thereby halved. In particular, the invention relates to closures for such articles, that is, devices for keeping same in folded position. More particularly, the present invention relates to automatically adjustable flaps for billfolds and the like to maintain same in folded position during varying conditions of fullness, distension, etc.

Wallets of the fold-over type provide at least one elongated pocket extending the full length thereof for paper currency, checks, etc., opening along the upper edge of the article. Most fold-over wallets, or billfolds, provide additional and shorter pockets, as for cards, photographs and similar articles, the other pockets being provided on the wings of the wallet and accessible from the inner aspect thereof. Wallets of the type to which this invention is directed are carried either on the person, or in a larger handbag, and are normally made as thin as possible to reduce bulk. The wallets usually do not have gussets, pleats or other expedients to permit expansion on the filling of the pockets, and when the pockets are fully occupied and the wallet spreads, it then becomes difficult to maintain same in a folded position, and the wallet becomes too unwieldy for comfort.

The main object of the present invention, therefore, is the provision of a fold-over wallet of new and improved construction in respect of the means to maintain same in folded position.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a fold-over wallet with automatically self-adjusting means to maintain same in folded position under practically all conditions as to fullness and distension.

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of a fold-over wallet comprising an outer elongated rectangular sheet and an inner elongated rectangular sheet of smaller outline than the outer or cover sheet and secured permanently thereto along only one side edge thereof forming one elongated therebetween pocket, and having additional pockets on the wings, and means secured to the free side of the inner sheet to releasably and yieldably maintain the wallet in folded position along a transverse median line under distension of the pockets.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide, in a wallet of the character described hereinabove, a closure strap partly of expansible material secured permanently by

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one end thereof to the free end of the inner sheet and releasably to the wallet cover or outer sheet on the outside of the wallet and at the other end thereof.

Other, further and more specific objects of the present invention will in part be apparent and in part specifically pointed out in the following description of an illustrative embodiment.

In the drawings annexed hereto and forming a part hereof,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of device constructed according to and embodying the present invention, in open, flat-lying condition;

Figure 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, with the wallet in closed condition, with the pockets empty; and

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2 with the pockets as in expanded condition.

The device, indicated generally by reference numeral 10, comprises an elongated rectangular outer sheet 12 of leather, leatherette, plastic or the like material. An elongated rectangular sheet 14, of slightly smaller dimensions in length and width than sheet 12, is overlaid and edge-aligned with the outer or cover sheet 12 and permanently secured thereto as indicated at 16. The upper and lower edges 20, 22 respectively of inner sheet 14 are spaced edgewise from the upper and lower edges of the outer, cover sheet 12. A pocket 5 is thereby provided between the cover and inner sheets, same being separable along the top of the article, which pocket extends the full length of the article. The materials are such as to fold readily at transverse median line 60.

On one wing of wallet 10, I provide a side pocket 7 which is formed by a smaller sheet 24 and one half of inner sheet 14. Said sheet 24 overlies one side of sheet 14 and is edge-aligned therewith, and extends from the lower edge of the cover sheet 12 to the upper edge of inner or liner sheet 14. The same securement for the engaged edges of sheets 12, 14 also secures thereto the side edge of sheet 24 which in width is less than half of sheets 12, 14. The lower edge of wing sheet 24 is secured to the lower edge of outer sheet 12, as at 28. It will be obvious from the foregoing that access to pocket 7 may be had at the top thereof and between its free edge 25 and inner sheet 14.

An additional side pocket 9 is provided on the other wing of wallet 10, pocket 9 being formed by a small sheet 30 which is permanently secured to the lower edge of sheet 12 and to the outer side edge as at 32, 34 respectively.

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As shown herein merely for illustrative purposes, the various securements referred to are by means of a pair of longitudinally split 4-shaped tubes 50, 52, which bind the upper edges of sheet 12 and the aligned side and bottom edges of sheets 24 and 30. Other securement, as stitching, cementing, heat-sealing or the like, may be employed as desired or suitable. The upper edge of sheet 30 is folded over the upper edge 20 of sheet 14 and either edge secured by tube 52 along edge 34, or else slidably engaged with sheet 12, as an alternative, the desiderata being the free movement of that portion of sheet 14 which lies between the engaged sheets 12, 30.

As the wallet or billfold 10 is bent at the median transverse line 60, the free end of inner sheet 14 will slide back and forth between the cover sheet and wing sheet 30. An elastic tape 62 is provided, with one end thereof secured as by stitching 63 spaced from the free end 64 of inner sheet 14. The other end of tape 62 is secured to a T-shaped strap 66 of the same material as outer sheet 12. A slot 68 in outer sheet 12, near side 34, is provided of such width as to permit the body 70 of strap 66 to pass freely therethrough. Slot 68 is narrower than the head 72 of strap 66, to act as a stop against passing the strap head 72 out through the slot. The foot of strap 66 is provided with a male snap button fastener 74. On the outer aspect of outer sheet 12, adjacent the edge secured at 16, I dispose the female cooperating snap button component 76. Thus, when the wallet is folded at line 60, it will be locked and held in such condition by the engagement of cooperating snap fasteners 74, 76. When the wallet pockets are empty, or have very few papers or cards therein, the elastic tape 62 will be in the contracted position illustrated in Figure 2. When the pocket 5 is filled with paper currency or the like, and the pockets 7 and 9 distended with cards, pictures or other materials, it will be more difficult to fold the wallet, but when snaps 74, 76 are interfitted, as illustrated in Figure 3, the expansion of tape 62 will permit the extension of strap 66 so as to maintain the wallet in its desirably folded condition. The expansion of the elastic component of the strap and the slidability of the inelastic component thereof, thus permits the use of the strap as a whole under most conditions of wallet fullness and pocket distension.

The T-head 72 of the inelastic component keeps

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same locked against withdrawal from the wallet cover or outer layer. The user sees only the inelastic material which is preferably like the material of outer sheet 12 and the device thus is relatively unobtrusive to the eye. As the pocket contents are removed, the contraction of the elastic component 62 keeps the strap taut, flatly against the outer sheet or wallet cover. The strap is thus self-adjusting.

Having described the invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A wallet of the character described, comprising an outer elongated rectangular cover sheet, an inner elongated rectangular sheet of smaller outline than the outer sheet and secured to the outer sheet along aligned side edges thereof, the sheets being otherwise separable to provide an elongated pocket therebetween, the wallet being foldable along a transverse median line, a pocket sheet on each side of the wallet, said pocket sheets being secured to the outer sheet at the bottom and side edges thereof respectively, a closure strap to maintain the wallet in folded condition, said strap being of elastic material at one end thereof, and of inelastic material at the other end thereof, the elastic end of the strap being disposed within the wallet and permanently fixed to the inner sheet at a point intermediate the transverse fold line and the free end of the inner sheet, the inelastic end of the strap passing through the outer sheet and being disposed partly within and partly without the wallet and being releasably securable to the outer aspect of the cover sheet adjacent the end thereof remote from the end secured to the inner sheet.

2. The wallet of claim 1, in which the outer sheet is slotted to permit passage of the inelastic portion of the strap therethrough, said inelastic portion having integral, transversely extending stop means thereon disposed within the wallet to limit the movement of said portion of the strap out of the wallet.

DANIEL J. NASH.

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