Aug. 4, 1964 P. T. SULLIVAN 3,143,262

HANDCUFF HOLSTER

Filed Sept. 4, 1962

FIG. 2

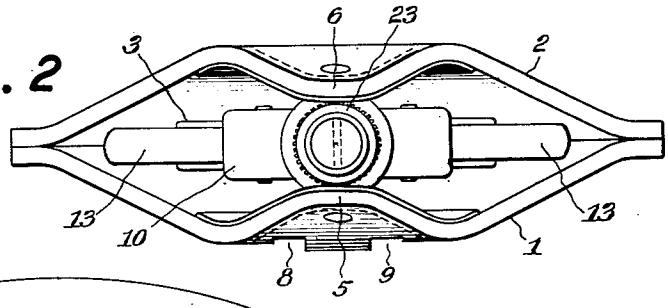


FIG. 1

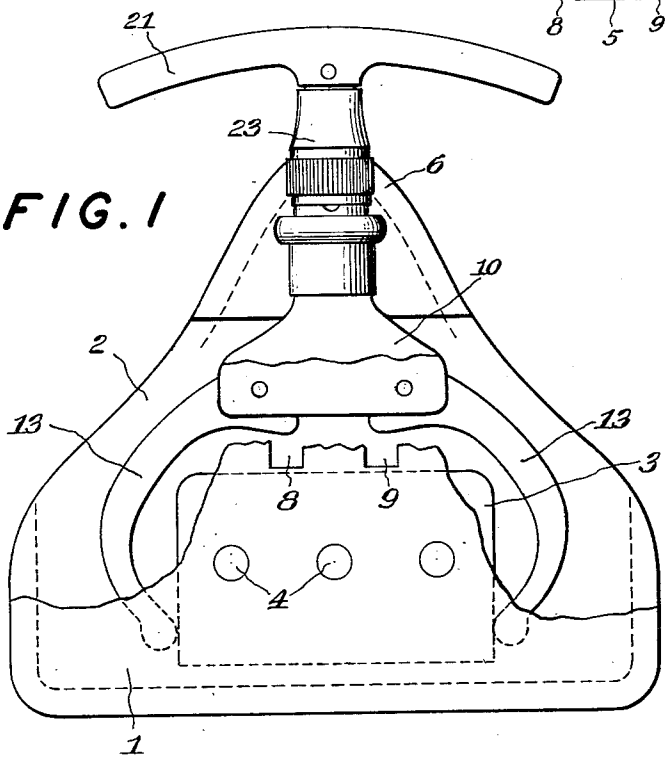
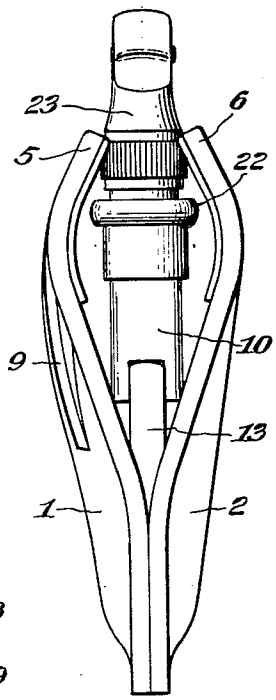


FIG. 3



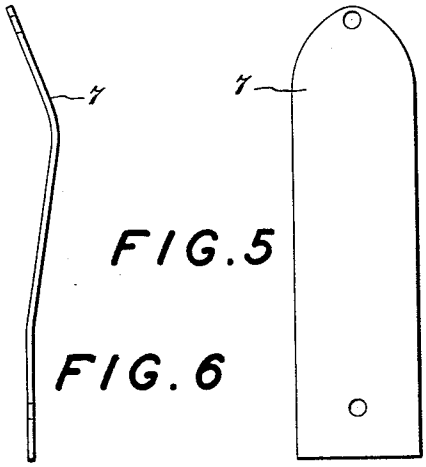


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

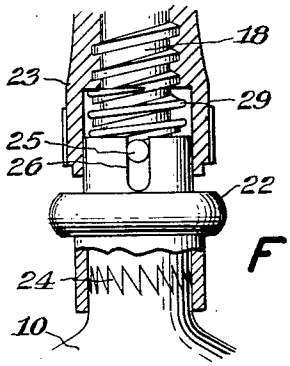


FIG. 4

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HANDCUFF HOLSTER

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The present invention relates to a handcuff holster and more particularly to a holster intended specifically for the purpose of holding a handcuff of the type shown and described in the patent to Smith-Stange, 1,950,757, issued March 13, 1934.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel holster for this purpose which will securely hold the handcuff in the best possible position for instant use.

It is another object to provide such a device incorporating means to prevent insertion of the handcuff in the holster except when the handcuff is in properly adjusted condition for instant use.

It is another object to provide such a device incorporating means to maintain the locking sleeve of the patented handcuff in retracted position so that there is no possibility of its interfering inadvertently with the closure of the handcuff on the limb of the person to be placed under forcible arrest.

Further objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation of a preferred form of the holster partly broken away and in section to show the position of the handcuff when seated therein;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the holster with the handcuff seated therein, the operating handle of the handcuff being removed for the sake of clarity;

FIG. 3 is a side view taken at right angles to the position shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged detail partly broken away and in section of the spindle and sleeves for controlling the actuation of the jaws of the handcuff;

FIG. 5 is an elevation of one of the elastic inserts used to press the tops of the side panels of the holster against the handcuff seated therein; and

FIG. 6 is an edge view of the same showing the manner in which it is bent.

In order to properly set forth the structural features of the present invention and their intended use, it is necessary to show and describe briefly the structure of the patented handcuff for which it is peculiarly adapted. For convenience, the elements of the handcuff are here designated by the same numerals as used in the cited patent.

Said handcuff, as best shown in FIG. 1, consists essentially of a pair of jaws **13** which are hinged to a body **10** and moved to open and closed positions by appropriate rotation of a threaded spindle **18** (FIG. 4) by means of handle bar **21**. Rotation of the spindle **18** in the direction to open the jaws **13** is normally prevented by a sleeve **22** splined on the spindle **18** as shown at **25, 26**, and having a ratchet connection **24** to the body **10** which may be released by manual retraction of the sleeve **22** against the force of spring **29**. Knurled blocking sleeve **23**, threaded on spindle **18** beneath the handle bar **21** prevents disengagement of ratchet teeth **24** when the sleeve **23** is threaded down into abutting relation with sleeve **22** by the operator.

The patented handcuff has been found useful and efficacious for its purpose, but heretofore there has been no device provided whereby the handcuff while carried by the operator is maintained instantly available for single-handed use. More particularly no holster has been provided having means for insuring that the jaws **13** of the handcuff are always in open position while the handcuff is being carried by the police officer, and that the sleeve **23** is never inadvertently permitted to be threaded down on the spindle **18** as by means of friction against the clothing of the officer carrying the handcuff so as to interfere with or delay the utilization of the handcuff.

According to the present invention, the holster is formed of two side panels **1, 2** of leather or other suitable material of generally triangular shape joined at their bases and part way up their sides as illustrated more particularly in FIG. 3. A block **3** of generally rectangular shape is anchored between the side panels **1, 2** adjacent the bottom of the pocket formed thereby as by means of rivets **4**. The block **3** is slightly thicker than the jaws **13** in order to space the panels **1, 2** for the reception of said jaws, and is slightly shorter in length than the space between said jaws when they are wide open, so that said block prevents the insertion of the handcuff in the holster except when the jaws are in open position. The block **3** also serves to center the handcuff in the holster and maintain the handle bar **21** and sleeve **23** in proper position.

The tops or apices **5, 6** of the panels **1, 2** are so dimensioned and contoured as to bear on the knurled portion of the sleeve **23** when the handcuff is seated in the holster, so as to frictionally resist rotation of said sleeve. In order to provide adequate pressure of said apices on the sleeve **23**, spring steel inserts **7** are preferably molded or otherwise incorporated in the panels, said inserts being contoured in the manner shown in FIG. 6 whereby they exert adequate inward pressure on said apices.

The panel **1** of the holster is formed with vertical slots **8, 9** for the passage of a body belt or the like whereby the holster will be carried in an upright position at the waist of the officer. The slots **8, 9** are located substantially above the joined portions of the panels **1, 2** and extend adjacent the apex of the panel **1** as seen in FIG. 3. By this arrangement, the handcuff can be readily inserted in the sheath since it is only necessary for the operator to bend away the apex **6** of the panel **2** with one hand in order to open the holster for the insertion of the handcuff held in the other hand, inasmuch as the apex **5** of the panel **1** is held back by the belt of the officer.

In utilizing the holster, it is necessary for the operator to open the jaws of the handcuff before he can insert it into the holster, and in order to do this he must back-off the blocking sleeve **23** to its inoperative position. When the handcuff is thus holstered it is firmly held in position by the pressure of the apices of the panels on the sleeve, and rotation of the sleeve into its blocking position is also prevented. When it is desired to use the handcuff, it is only necessary to jerk it from the sheath by means of the handle **21** and to apply it for its intended purpose by rotation of the handle **21** to close the jaws on the arm of the person resisting arrest. Thereafter the blocking sleeve **23** may be threaded down by the thumb and finger of the operator to prevent undesired release of the handcuff.

Although but one form of the invention has been shown and described in detail, it will be understood that minor changes may be made in the design and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A holster for a handcuff having jaws pivotally mounted for opening and closing movement

means for actuating said jaws and

means movable into and out of operative position for preventing actuation of said jaws;

said holster comprising a pocket for receiving said jaws,

means in said pocket to prevent insertion of the handcuff therein except while the jaws are in open position, and

elastic means for resisting withdrawal of the handcuff from said pocket,

said elastic means also comprising means for maintaining in inoperative position said means for preventing actuation of said jaws,

2. A holster for a handcuff as set forth in claim 1 in which said pocket comprises a pair of side panels of generally triangular shape joined together at their bases and part way up their sides, and

said means for preventing insertion of the handcuff comprises a substantially rectangular block anchored to said side panels adjacent the bottom of the pocket,

said block having a thickness slightly greater than that of the jaws of the handcuff to thereby space said panels to receive said jaws,

and having a length slightly less than the space between said jaws when wide open, to permit said jaws to embrace said block and enter said pocket only while said jaws are open.

3. A holster for a handcuff as set forth in claim 1 in which said pocket comprises a pair of side panels of generally triangular shape joined together at their bases and part way up their sides, and spaced for the reception of the jaws of the handcuff therebetween, and

said elastic means being arranged to press the apices of said panels toward each other and into frictional contact with said means on the handcuff for preventing actuation of said jaws, while the handcuff is positioned in said holster.

4. A holster for a handcuff as set forth in claim 3 in which one of said side panels is provided with means for attachment to a body belt or the like, said attaching means being located substantially above the joined portions of the panels, and extending adjacent the apex of said panel.

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