July 28, 1953 H. MEYERS 2,646,833

HANDBAG

Filed Dec. 20, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

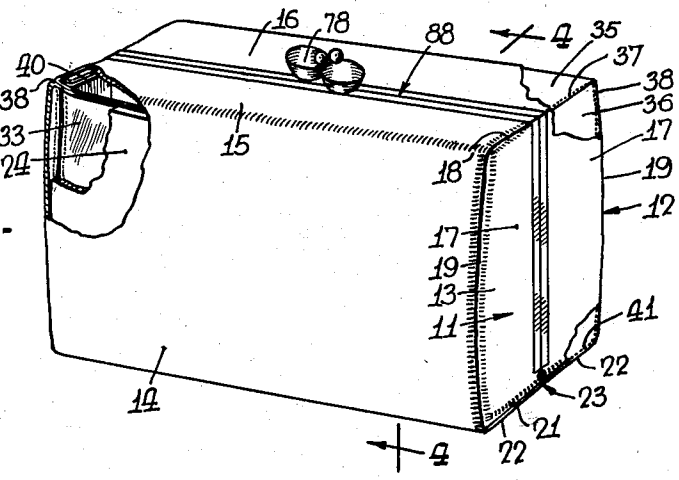


Fig. 2.

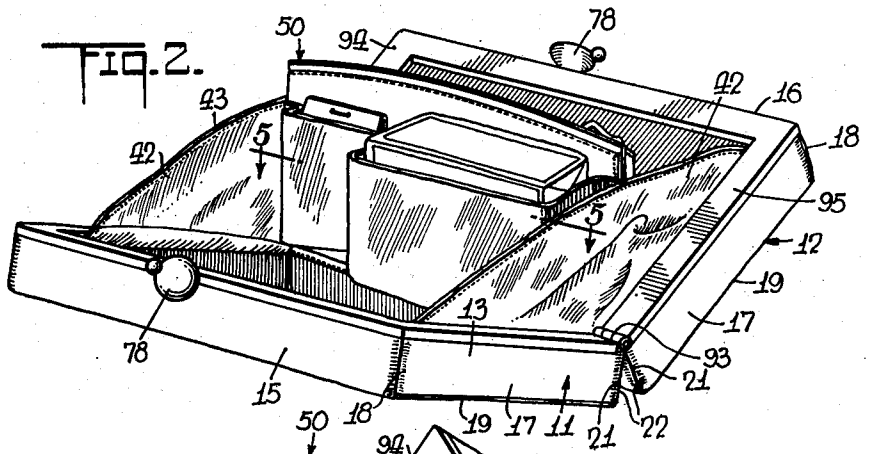
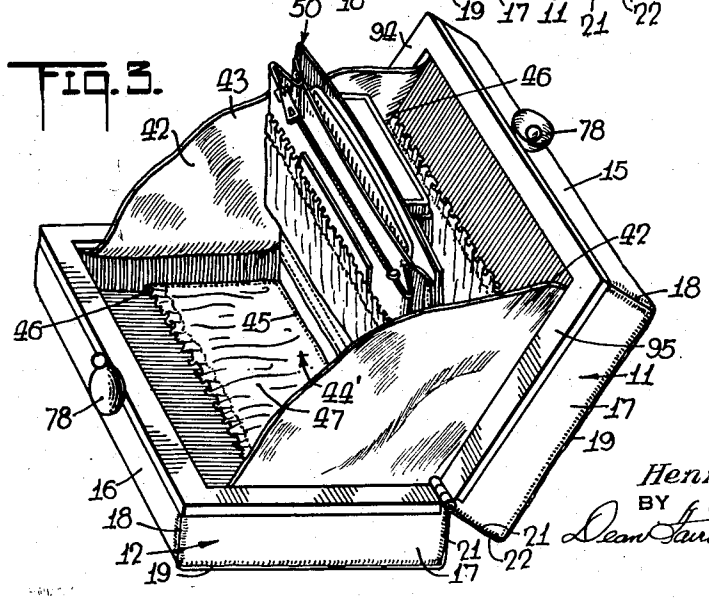


Fig. 3.



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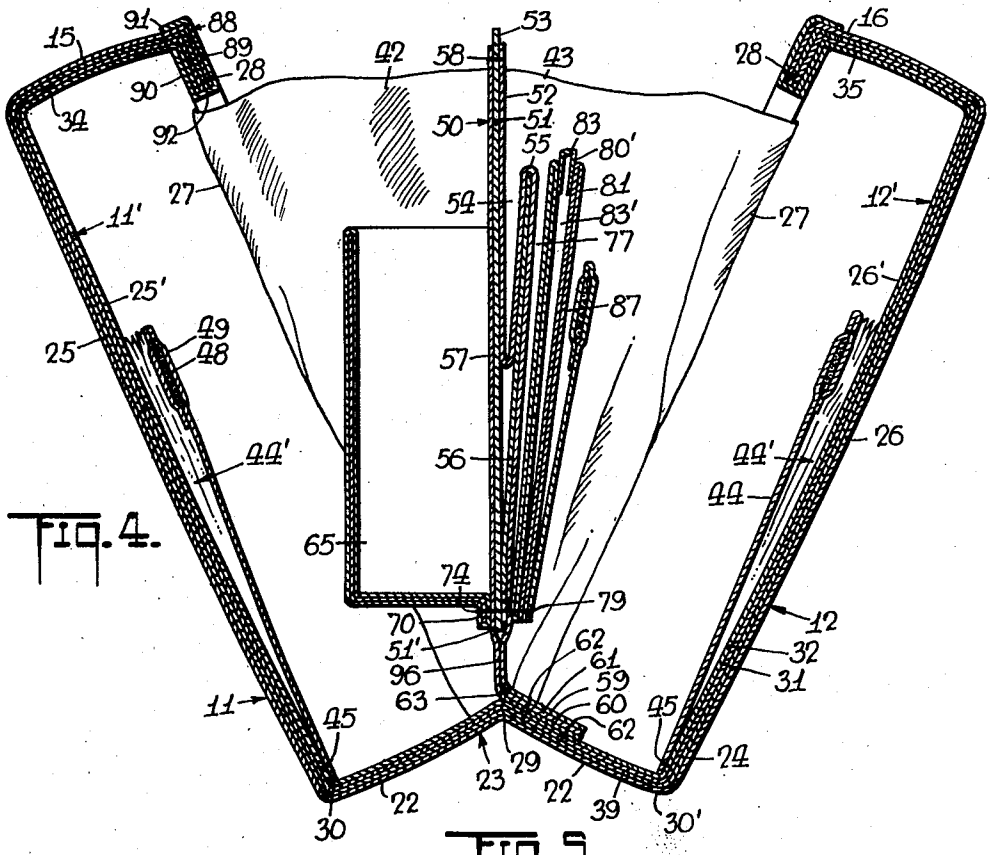


FIG. 4.

FIG. 5.

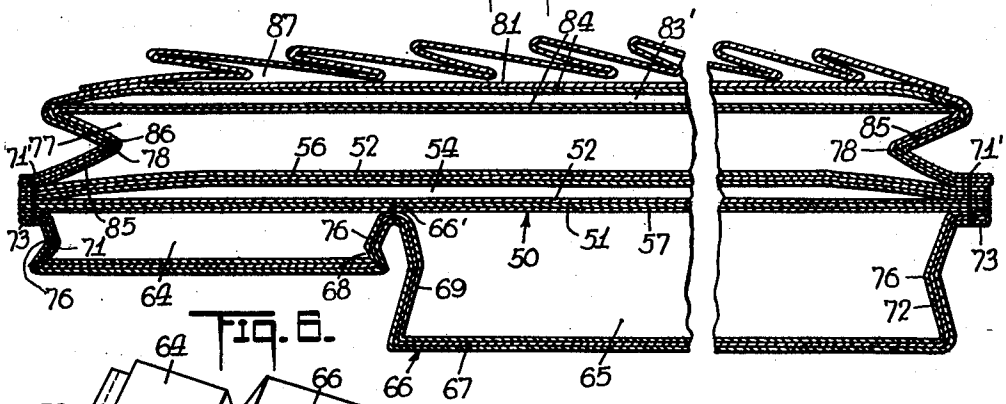
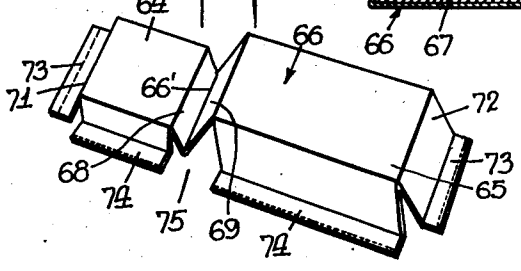


FIG. 6.



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2,646,833

HANDBAG

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Application December 20, 1947, Serial No. 792,877

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—34)

1

It is among the objects of this invention to provide a ladies' handbag that is neat, compact, light in weight and simple and inexpensive to manufacture, that provides ample room in a minimum of space for articles normally carried during use of such handbag, yet will not bulge or become deformed, and that affords convenient access to the interior thereof and to the articles contained therein and retains such articles so that they may conveniently be removed from the bag.

According to the invention these objects are accomplished by the arrangement and combination of elements hereinafter described and particularly recited in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown one of various possible embodiments of the several features of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the handbag in closed position, with parts broken away,

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing the handbag in open position,

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 taken from a different angle,

Fig. 4 is a sectional view on a larger scale taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 5 is a sectional view likewise on a larger scale taken along line 5—5 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view on a smaller scale of the cigarette and match pockets.

Referring now to the drawings, the particular embodiment of the handbag herein chosen for the illustration of my invention comprises a pair of substantially box-like container sections 11 and 12, preferably rectangular, and which could be of other desired shapes. The sections are adapted to swing apart and together and preferably are formed from a substantially rectangular sheet 14 of greater length than width which may be leather, suede, plastic, fabric or like material commonly used for ladies' handbags.

The ends of the sheet 14 are bent inwardly at right angles thereto to form the top portions 15 and 16 of the respective containers. Each of the sides 13 of the containers is formed from a substantially rectangular strip 17 affixed at one end as by stitching to each of the lateral edges respectively of top portions 15 and 16 as at 18 and to the adjacent edge of sheet 14 as at 19. The portion of sheet 14 adjacent the lower end of each of the rectangular strips 17 is then bent so as to be parallel to such lower end and is thereupon affixed thereto as by stitching as at 21 to form the bottoms 22 of the container sections 11 and 12.

2

The outer shell thus formed of two box-like container elements, is turned inside out after being stitched as above described to conceal such stitching and make the exterior of the outer shell smooth and uninterrupted, thereby presenting a neat and pleasing appearance.

In order to stiffen the substantially flexible outer shell, a substantially rectangular cardboard stiffening backing 24 is provided which is positioned in the outer shell so as to lie against the top portions 15 and 16, inner faces 25 and 26 and base 23 thereof. This is clearly shown in Fig. 4. The backing is affixed to the top portions 15 and 16 as at 28 by stapling to retain it in position and is creased transversely thereacross at its mid point as at 29 to permit free opening and closing of the bag, and also as at 30 and 30' to define the inner edge of the bottoms 22 of the containers 11 and 12, respectively.

An inner shell is provided, preferably of strong paper 31 having a facing 32 preferably of cloth affixed on one wall thereof, preferably by gluing.

The inner shell is similar in structure to the outer shell and formed in a similar manner, comprising as it does a substantially rectangular sheet 33 of greater length than width, the ends of which are bent inwardly at right angles thereto to form the top portions 34 and 35 of the inner shell, and sides 40, each formed from a substantially rectangular strip 36 affixed at one end as by stitching to each of the lateral edges respectively of top portions 34 and 35 as at 37, and to the adjacent edge of the rectangular sheet 33 as at 38. The portion of sheet 33 adjacent the lower ends of each of the rectangular strips 36 is then bent so as to be parallel to such lower end and is thereupon affixed thereto as by stitching as at 41 to form the bottoms 39 of the inner shell container elements 11' and 12'.

A pair of webs 42, preferably of cloth are provided affixed respectively to the aligned lateral edges 27 of each of the inner shell container elements. The webs 42 preferably have a substantially arcuate upper edge 43 and are of such width as to permit adequate opening of the handbag.

Affixed to the inner faces 25' and 26', respectively, of the container elements 11' and 12' of the inner shell is a pocket 44' comprising a substantially rectangular strip 44 of cloth connected at its bottom edge 45 and its lateral edges 45 as by stitching to the bottom and lateral edges, respectively, of faces 25' and 26' of the inner shell.

Strip 44 is gathered in folds 47 along the length thereof to permit expansion of the pocket 44' in

order that it may be filled and an elastic band 48 is provided, secured at each end to the respective lateral edges of faces 25' and 26' and concealed in a hem 49 at the top of the pocket 44'.

An important feature of the present invention is the hinged center panel which has affixed to the opposite faces thereof a number of more or less specialized compartments, all of which are readily accessible.

The center panel 50 includes a cardboard stiffening member 51 having facings 52, 57 on the walls thereof which extend downwardly beyond the lower edge 51' of stiffening member 51. Facing 52 is reversely bent at approximately the center of panel 50, to form a shallow pocket 54 and then reversely bent again as at 55.

In order to stiffen the pocket 54, a cardboard stiffening member 58 is provided, encompassed by the reversely bent portion of the facing 52 and extending downward to the lower edge 51' of stiffening member 51.

The upper edges of the facings 52 and 57 are affixed to the upper edge of the stiffening member 51 as at 58, preferably by stitching, and the flexible lower ends 59 and 60 of the facings 52 and 57 extending beyond the lower edge 51' of stiffening member 51 have a rectangular cardboard stiffening strip 61 inserted therebetween. The facings 52 and 57 and the cardboard strip 61 are then stitched as at 62 to the bottom 39 of the inner shell of container element 12' so that the edge 63 of strip 61 will be on the middle line 29 of the base of the inner shell.

A number of pockets are provided on each side of the center panel 50 for retaining those numerous articles generally carried by the female user, to which ready access is desired.

Illustratively two pockets 64 and 65 are provided, formed from a strip of cloth 66 bent over a stiffening member 67, preferably of cardboard and stitched to the side of center panel 50 adjacent facing 57 as at 66', thereby forming adjacent sides 68 and 69 of pockets 64 and 65, respectively. The lateral edges of the strip 66 are bent inwardly toward the center panel to form sides 71 and 72 of pockets 64 and 65, respectively, and the sides 71 and 72 each have a flange 73 at right angles thereto, secured to the panel by stitching. The bottoms of the pockets are formed by bending the lower edge of strip 66 inwardly toward the panel and then downwardly to form a flange 74 which is then stitched to the center panel.

In order to prevent the strip 66 and the stiffening member 67 therein from bunching up at the lower ends of pockets 64 and 65 adjacent sides 68 and 69 thereof when the bottom of the pockets are formed, a substantially rectangular notch 75 is provided in said strip 66 and stiffening member 67.

In order to permit expansion of the pockets 64 and 65, the sides 68, 71 and 69, 72 thereof have an accordion pleat therein as at 76. Thus pocket 64 which preferably is larger than pocket 65 can readily accommodate a pack of cigarettes and the pocket 65, a pack of matches.

The other side of center panel 50 also has a plurality of pockets therein. In addition to shallow pocket 54 which is suitable for a small comb, there is a larger pocket 77 having accordion pleats 78 at the sides thereof to permit expansion of the pocket when a handkerchief, mirror and other articles are placed therein.

This pocket which is formed from a strip of cloth folded to form a double ply, is affixed by

stitching as at 79 near the lower edge 51' of center panel 50. Substantially the entire top edge 80' of the front wall 81 of pocket 77 is slit and a "zipper" closure 83 is provided to afford a convenient and readily accessible change purse 83'.

It is to be noted that the upper edge of center panel 51 extends beyond the upper edge of pockets 77 and 83 and acts as a handle to be grasped when said "zipper" closure is operated.

In order to stiffen pocket 83', stiffening members 84 are affixed to each of the inner walls thereof, preferably by gluing, and stiffening members 85 are provided in each of the accordion pleated sides of the pocket 77, creased as at 86 to permit ready collapse of such sides.

A pocket 87 similar in construction to the pockets on the inner faces of the container elements is also provided, affixed to the front wall 81 of pocket 83'.

The center panel 50, together with the pockets thereon, form a unitary member held together by stitching 70 near the bottom of panel 50 extending transversely thereacross and by stitching 71' at the sides of the center panel.

The inner shell is slightly smaller in size than the outer shell and when assembled as above described, it is inserted in the outer shell so as to lie snugly therein.

A substantially U-shaped bag frame 88, preferably of metal, is affixed to the exposed top edges of the nested container sections 11 and 12 and clamps the inner and outer shells rigidly together between the faces 89 and 90 and sides 91 and 92 of the frame. The frames 88 are hingedly connected, as at 93, at the ends of the legs 94 and 95 thereof, and have a suitable catch 73 at the top thereof to keep the bag closed.

The bag when opened provides free access to the interior thereof, the webs 42 preventing the loss of any article that accidently falls out of the place provided therefor.

The center panel, by virtue of the fact that there is a small gap 96 between stiffener 61 and stiffener 51 of the center panel 50 will pivot freely without undue wear or strain and may be flipped over easily to either container section, as desired, thus providing convenient access to the articles on either side of the center panel or in either of the container sections 11 or 12. The user, when requiring any particular item, does not have to search through a jumble of articles at the bottom of the bag but may readily locate the article she desires as it is accessible and retained in place.

The depth of the container sections is such that when the usual articles carried daily by the female user are positioned in the pockets on panel 50 and on the inner walls of the container section, the bag may be closed without bulging the sides thereof, thereby resulting in a handbag that is both neat and pleasing in appearance and useful and efficient in operation.

As many changes could be made in the above construction, and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be made without departing from the scope of the claims, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A handbag comprising two container sec-

tions swinging apart and together, a web connecting the respective aligned lateral edges of said container sections and extending upwardly from the lower edges thereof, and a rectangular center panel comprising a stiffening member having a facing on each wall thereof extending beyond the lower edge thereof, a plurality of pockets on said center panel, a stiffening strip between the extending ends of said facings, with the adjacent longitudinal edges of said stiffening member and said stiffening strip being slightly spaced from each other, said extending ends and said stiffening strip being affixed to the base of one of said container sections to form a hinge with the edge of said stiffening strip aligned with the mid point of the base of said handbag.

2. A handbag comprising two container sections swinging apart and together, a rectangular center panel comprising a stiffening member having a facing on each wall thereof extending beyond the lower edge thereof, a plurality of pockets on said center panel, a stiffening strip between the extending ends of said facings, with the adjacent longitudinal edges of said stiffening member and said stiffening strip being slightly spaced from each other, said extending ends and said stiffening strip being affixed to the base of one of said container sections to form a hinge with the edge of said stiffening strip aligned with the mid point of the base of said handbag.

HENRY MEYERS.

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