Aug. 14, 1951 E. V. MELE 2,564,122

JEWELRY BOX WITH A SECRET COMPARTMENT

Filed Aug. 17, 1948

Fig. 1

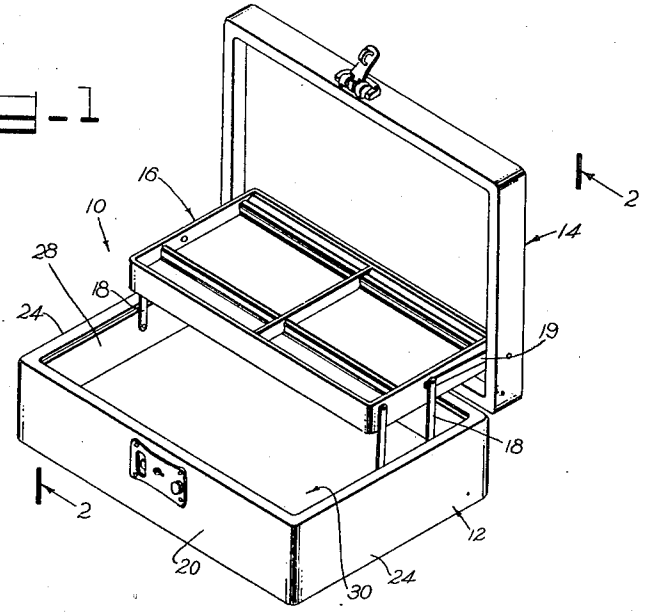
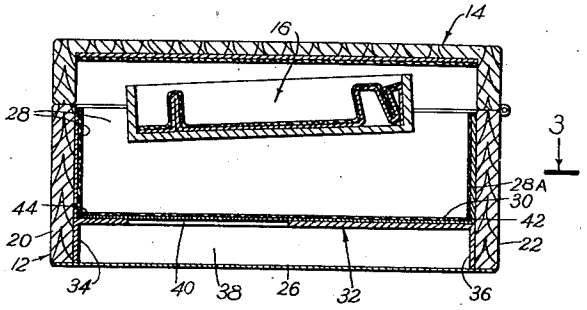


Fig. 2



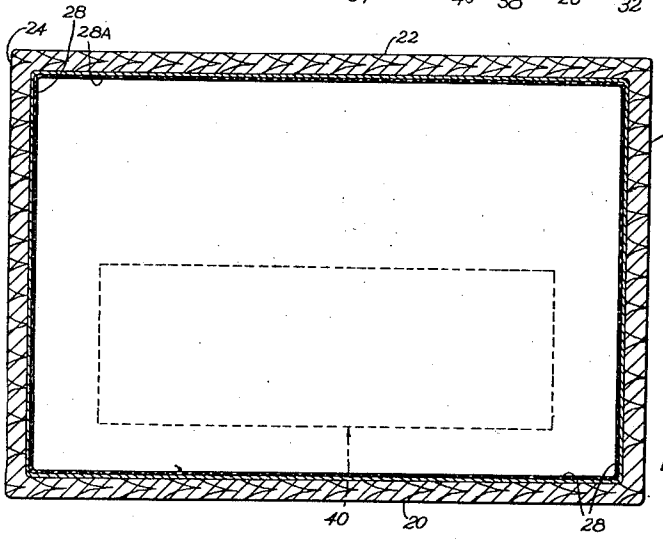


Fig. 3

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JEWELRY BOX WITH A SECRET COMPARTMENT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 312—204)

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This invention relates to receptacles and more particularly to receptacles such as boxes for jewels or other valuables.

In accordance with the present invention and pursuant to one of the objects thereof the receptacle is provided with a secret compartment which is located within the receptacle at the bottom thereof.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a receptacle having a bottom lining which also constitutes a secret cover for the secret compartment with which the receptacle is provided pursuant to the object of the invention first mentioned above.

A further object of the invention is generally to provide in a receptacle a secret compartment which is of simple construction and highly effective for its purpose.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be fully understood from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a jewel box or chest embodying the present invention, the box cover being in its open position;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 the cover being closed; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view, on a larger scale, on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the box 10 embodying the present invention is illustrated as of the type which includes a receptacle body 12, a hinged cover 14 and a lift tray 16. The latter is pivotally connected in a well-known way to the body 12 and to the cover 14 by the links 18 and 19 respectively for movement from its retracted position illustrated in Fig. 2, when the cover is closed, to the raised position illustrated in Fig. 1 when the cover is opened. In this respect boxes of this type are well-known and therefore this part of the box need not be further described.

Referring now more particularly to the body part 12 of the box, said body part comprises the front and rear side walls 20 and 22, and the end side walls 24, as well as the usual bottom wall 26. As is customary, the inner surface of the receptacle body is lined, usually with a lining which includes a fabric such as felt or plush. The lining for the side walls is indicated at 28. The lining for the bottom of the receptacle is indicated at 30. It will be observed that lining 30 is disposed above the bottom 26 of the receptacle body 12 and is sufficiently close to said bottom 26 so as to appear as the real bottom of the box. Said lining 30 completely covers and conceals a bottom wall 32 which is spaced from the bottom 26 and with which said bottom 26 defines a secret compartment. Bottom wall 32 is formed of any suitable material and is provided with integral downwardly extending front and rear side portions 34 and 36 respectively and opposite side wall portions 38, said downturned portions 34 and 36 abutting the inner surfaces of side walls 20 and 22 respectively and the downturned portions 38 abutting the inner surfaces of the adjacent side walls 24. Thus, bottom wall 32, which forms the top of the secret compartment is supported in predetermined spaced relation to bottom wall 26 and may be fastened in its said predetermined position by adhesively or otherwise securing the downturned portions 34, 36 and 38 to the adjacent side wall portions of the receptacle.

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Wall 32 is provided with an opening 40 which is normally covered by lining 30. Said lining 30 is secured to the part of the lining 28 which covers the rear side wall 22, but is otherwise free for movement to a position in which opening 40 is uncovered for access to the secret compartment. More particularly, the rear end of lining 30 is preferably foldably connected to the lower edge of lining part 28A as indicated at 42 in Fig. 2. When one familiar with the construction of the box 10 desires to obtain access to the secret compartment located beneath the bottom wall 32, it is merely necessary to grip the front edge portion 44 of the lining and closure member 30 for raising the latter sufficiently to uncover the opening 40 of said compartment. On the other hand when said lining and closure member 30 is in its normal position horizontally against bottom wall 32, the presence of the secret compartment is hidden from view and is not apparent to one unfamiliar with the construction of the box.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that various changes may be made therein without departing from the underlying idea and principles of the invention within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A receptacle of the character described, comprising a receptacle body having side walls and a bottom wall, a horizontal wall fixedly disposed near but spaced from said bottom wall and form-

ing a secret compartment, said spaced horizontal wall having an opening for access to said compartment, and linings for said side walls and said horizontal wall, the lining for said side walls being fixed and the lining for said horizontal wall being free of securement thereto and movable from a normal position in which it substantially completely covers said horizontal wall to a position in which it is bodily removed therefrom to uncover said opening of the secret compartment, said last mentioned lining concealing the presence of said secret compartment.

2. A receptacle of the character described, comprising a receptacle body having side walls and a bottom wall, a horizontal wall fixedly disposed near but spaced from said bottom wall and forming a secret compartment, said spaced horizontal wall having an opening for access to said compartment, and a movable closure member for said opening substantially completely overlying and concealing said spaced horizontal wall, said movable closure comprising a lining member for said horizontal wall and appearing to be a conventional lining of the bottom of the receptacle body, said lining member being free of securement to said horizontal wall and bodily removable therefrom for access to said opening.

3. A receptacle of the character described, comprising a receptacle body having side walls and a bottom wall, a horizontal wall fixedly disposed near but spaced from said bottom wall and forming a secret compartment, said horizontal wall having end portions which are fixedly secured to said side walls for supporting the horizontal wall in said spaced relation to said bottom wall, said spaced horizontal wall having an opening for access to said compartment, and a movable closure member for said opening substantially completely overlying and concealing said spaced horizontal wall, said movable closure comprising a flexible lining member for said horizontal wall and appearing to be a conventional lining of the bottom of the receptacle body, said lining member being free of securement to said horizontal wall and bodily removable therefrom for access to said opening.

4. A receptacle of the character described, comprising a receptacle body having side walls and a bottom wall, a horizontal wall fixedly disposed near but spaced from said bottom wall and forming a secret compartment, said horizontal wall having end portions which are fixedly secured to said side walls for supporting the horizontal wall in said spaced relation to said bottom wall, said spaced horizontal wall having an opening for access to said compartment, and linings for said side walls and said horizontal wall, the lining for said side walls being fixed and the lining for said horizontal wall being free of securement thereto and movable from a normal position in which it substantially completely covers said horizontal wall to a position in which it is bodily removed therefrom to uncover said opening of the secret compartment, said last mentioned lining concealing the presence of said secret compartment.

EDWARD V. MELE.

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