This invention relates to locking means for ladies' handbags and the like. Therefore, the locking devices for ladies' handbags and the like have included a spring which has added to the cost of the locking means and it has also been an item in the manufacturing costs due to the labor required to associate the spring in the locking means. An object of this invention is a locking means of simple and inexpensive structure which can be easily and quickly assembled with a handbag frame and in which no separate spring member is required.

Other objects, novel features and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following specification and accompanying drawings, wherein:

1. In Fig. 1, 10 and 11 comprise two hinged frame members of standard construction to which is attached in the ordinary manner the material 12 constituting the bag proper. The frame members 10 and 11 are of the standard construction, each having a flat border member 16a and 16a respectively. In the member 11a, two slots 13 are provided, these slots being slightly spaced from each other and extending lengthwise of the member 11a. A plate 14 rests on the member 11a and has provision such as holes 15, for the attachment thereto of a button or any other ornamental member, such as shown at 18. The plate is suitably cut away and slitted to provide two pairs of tongues 17 which are turned at right angles to the plate and pass through the slits 13. Between the tongues of each pair is provided sufficient clearance to enable them to move toward each other to reduce the overall width of a pair sufficiently to pass through a slot 13, said slot being of less width than the normal overall width of a pair of tongues 17. Each tongue is cut back to provide a shoulder 18 which engages the under surface of the member 11a to hold the plate in contact with such member.

2. The portions 19 of the plate provide bearing members contacting the member 11a so as to hold the plate firmly in position, there being substantially no play between the plate 14 and the member 11a. The plate 14 is cut away centrally as at 20 to provide a space to receive the nose or projection 21 formed on the border member 16a of the frame 10.

In assembling the plate 14 with the frame 11, the tongues 17 are forced through the slots 13, the tongues of each pair moving toward each other to permit such insertion. After the tongues have been fully inserted they spring outwardly to bring the shoulders 18 below the member 11a and thus lock the plate to such member. The plate is of sufficient resilience that when the projection 21 is engaged with its outer edge, it will yield sufficiently to permit movement of the two frame members into contact with the projection 21 passing into the space 20 whereupon the plate 14 springs back into original position, thus locking the two frame members. In order to unlock the bag, the front edge of the plate 14 is lifted by pressure exerted against the button 16, such pressure being effective due to the engagement of the members 19 with the member 11a to lift the plate to release the projection 21.

The modification disclosed in Fig. 5 is designed for use where it is desired to have a locking member extend over a major portion of the frame member. The plate 14 of this modification differs from the plate 14 of Fig. 4 in that it is considerably longer and is provided with four pairs of tongues 17 instead of two pairs and has a correspondingly greater number of members 13.

In Figs. 6 and 7 is illustrated a modification in which the invention is embodied in a very small locking member and in this modification the plate 14 is provided with only a single pair of tongues 17, each of which fits into a slot 13 and there is but a single member 19. However, this modification embodies the same principle as embodied in the other modification.

It is of course understood that various modifications may be made in the structure of the device herein disclosed, without in any way departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:
1. In a latch for handbags having pivoted frames, a plate of resilient material arranged substantially flat upon both frames when the handbag is closed and provided with tongues partially
severed from the plate and extending downwardly at right angles to the main portion of the plate and having outer engaging edges provided with means for interlocking them with one of the pivoted frames, said frame being slotted to receive said tongues and the pair of tongues being of greater normal overall width than the slot receiving them whereby when the tongues are inserted in the slot of said frame they will be distorted and through the resiliency of the material spring said shoulders into interlocking engagement with such frame and rigidly connect said plate to the slotted frame while providing for lateral yield whereby said plate may engage with the other pivoted frame.

3. In a latch for handbags having pivoted frames, a plate of resilient material arranged substantially flat upon both of the frames when the handbag is closed and provided with pairs of tongues partially severed from said plate and extending downward at right angles to said main portion of the plate and having outer engaging edges provided with means for interlocking engagement with one of said frames, said frame being slotted to receive said tongues and the pair of tongues being of greater normal overall width than the slot receiving them and slightly spaced apart and movable toward each other whereby when the tongues are inserted through the slot in the slotted frame they will spring into interlocking engagement with said frame and rigidly connect the plate to the slotted frame and hold said plate in position for engagement with the other frame of the handbag, the resiliency of the material at the bend which connects the lugs with the main portion of the plate providing for lateral yield whereby said plate may engage with the other pivoted frame.

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