UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS B. PRAHAR, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

FRAME-LATCH FOR BAGS, PURSES, &c.


Applicationfiled December 7, 1900. Serial No. 39,074. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS B. PRAHAR, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Frame-Latch for Bags, Purses, &c., of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The purpose of the invention is to provide a locking device for single or double frames for bags, purses, satchels, and the like which will be an improvement upon the construction set forth in the Letters Patent granted to me August 7, 1900, No. 655,312, and to so construct the locking device that it will be simplified in construction and be rendered more adaptable to the frame of pocket-books and similar small frames, enabling the members of a frame to be unfastened either by rocking the locking device in one or the other direction on the frame or by drawing the locking device outward, the locking device when relieved from tension being always in position to latch the members of the frame to which it is applied.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a bag or satchel frame, illustrating the application of the improvement thereto. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section through a portion of the said frame and a vertical section taken by the locking device applied thereto. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken practically on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a vertical section taken substantially on the line 4 4 of Fig. 2, showing the members of the frame closed and locked in closed position. Fig. 5 is a section similar to Fig. 4, illustrating, however, one member of the frame in an open position. Fig. 6 is a section similar to that shown in Fig. 2, illustrating a slight departure in the manner in which the attachment is made to the frame; and Fig. 7 is a vertical section through the frame of a pocket-book having the improvement applied, the members of which frame are shown locked.

The frame is made of three members—a central member and two side members—and when the frame is to be applied to a bag, satchel, or the like the central member A and the side members B are constructed as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. When the frame is to be applied to a pocket-book, the central member A' and the side members B' are constructed as shown in Fig. 7.

With reference to the construction of a frame adapted for application to a bag or satchel the side members B are pivoted to the bottom portions of the central or body member A at its lower ends, as shown in Fig. 1, when the frame is made up of three members, and each side member, at the center of its upper portion, is provided with a lug 11, which lugs are adapted to enter recesses 13, made in the upper central portion of the side edges of the main or body member A, one at each side. The central or body member A is provided with a central longitudinal rib 12, which rib is usually produced by striking up the metal of the central or body section A from the inside, and this rib is usually semicircular in cross-section, as is illustrated in Figs. 3, 4, and 5; but the cross-section of the rib may be varied. This rib 13 may extend from end to end of the central or body section A of the frame, or it may extend a given distance beyond each side of the center of said body-section, or, as illustrated in Fig. 6, a rib member 13' may be attached to the flat upper surface of the main or body section A or other section of the frame, extending beyond each side of the upper central portion of said section, and under this construction a chamber 19 is formed. Further, under this construction a lock or latch may be made capable of attachment to any article.

A cap or catch-button C is used in connection with the main or body section A of the frame, and when the frame is to be used in connection with a bag or satchel the cap or catch-button is constructed as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, in which the button is of cylindrical shape and is provided with an interior chamber 15, extending through the bottom of the button. At diametrically oppo-
site sides of the said catch-button, at its bot-
tom, recesses 16 are made, which neatly fit
over the rib 12 and permit said button to have
a rocking movement on the rib, while the rib
serves to prevent the button from being
turned. At the central portion of the rib 12
a transverse slot 14 is made therein, as is
shown in Fig. 3, and when the catch-button
C is placed in position it is centrally located
over the said slot. A pin 17 is passed through
the catch-button C and through the chamber
18 therein and likewise through the slot 14 in
the rib 12. The upper end of this pin 17 is
usually provided with a head, and the lower
end of the pin 17 is riveted or otherwise se-
cured to a spring 18, and when the construc-
tion of the frame is such as is illustrated in
Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 the spring 18 is fitted in
a concavity formed in the bottom of the cen-
tral or body member of the frame by striking
up the rib 12. The ends of the spring are
curved and have bearing against the upper
wall of the channel or groove in which it is
placed, while a certain amount of play is al-
lowed between the said upper wall of the chan-
nel or groove and the central portion of the
spring, or that portion to which the pin 17 is
secured.

The inner faces of the lugs 11 are beveled
to a greater or less extent, so that when a side
member B of a frame is closed against the
central or body member A the lug belonging
to the said member by engagement with the
lower portion of the catch-button will rock
the catch-button to one side and enter the
chamber 18. As soon as the catch-button rights
itself it will lock the lug in place, as shown in Fig. 4. When a side member of the
frame is to be opened, the catch-button may
be drawn upward, thus taking it out of lock-
ing engagement with the lugs 11, enabling
both side members to be carried out from the
body member A; but if only one side mem-
er B is to be opened the catch-button is
rocked from the said member, thus releasing
the lug 11 of the side member of the frame it
is desired to open and permitting the said
member to be drawn from the body member
or to drop therefrom through gravity.

It will be observed that the catch-button
cannot turn on its support, but that it can be
rocked to either side of the support. When
the rib 12 is added to the flat frame, as shown
in Fig. 6, the spring 18 is placed in the cham-
ber 18, formed by the addition of the said
rib 12.

In Fig. 7 I have illustrated the adaptation
of my improvement to a pocket-book frame,
in which A represents the main or body mem-
er, constructed as has been described with
reference to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and B' two
side members. Each of these side members
is provided with a lug 11, and these lugs are
adapted to enter recesses in the flanges or
side edges of the main or body member A.
When the side members of this form of frame
are in closed position, the lugs 11 are held in
the recesses of the body member A by the
cap or catch-button C, which in this form of
frame consists of an arched top portion 19,
conforming to the exterior contour of the rib
12 of the body member A, and side flanges
20, which extend beyond the body and are
shown returned inward, and the inner edges
of these side flanges 20 by engagement with
the lugs 11 serve to hold the side sections B'
of the frame closed. It will be understood
that the return portions of the flanges may be
dispensed with, as holes or recesses may be
made in the flanges instead for the recep-
tion of the lugs. A pin 17 is passed through
the top portion 19 of the modified form of
catch-button shown in Fig. 7, and this pin is
connected with a spring 18, which lies in the
groove or channel formed by striking up the
said rib, and the action of the spring 18 is
identical with the action of the spring 18 here-
tofore described. Either of the side sections
of this modified form of the frame may be
opened by drawing outward the catch-button
applied to the frame or by rocking the said
catch-button on the frame.

I desire it to be understood that the frame
may be made in two or more sections and
that the latch may be secured to any section
that is most convenient, and, further, that the
lock or latch may be so made that it may be
secured to any objects and operate as de-
scribed. When the frame consists of but two
pivoted members, the chamber to receive the
spring may be struck up from either member.

Having thus described my invention, I
claim as new and desire to secure by Letters
Patent—

1. In a frame for bags, satchels and pocket-
books, the combination with a frame having
a longitudinally extending chamber in its
body member and a lug on a hinged mem-
er, of a chambered button, a pin secured to
the button, and having its inner end extend-
ing loosely through the wall of the chamber
into the same, and a bow-spring arranged in
the chamber of the frame and to the center
of which the pin of the button is secured, as
set forth.

2. In frames for bags, satchels and pocket-
books, the combination of a main section,
side sections hinged thereto, the side sec-
ctions having lugs arranged to enter recesses
in the main section, the main section being
provided with a longitudinal projection on
its outer face, located between the said re-
cesses, a spring located beneath the said pro-
jection, a catch-button mounted to rock upon
said projection, a catch-button being capable of an outward as well as a
rocking movement, and means, substantially
as described, for preventing the catch-but-
ton from turning, as and for the purpose set
forth.

3. In frames for bags, satchels and pocket-
books, the combination of the sections of the
frame, which sections have pivotal relation
with reference to each other, one section being provided with a longitudinal projection on its outer face, said section having a recess in a longitudinal edge between its ends, a lug on the opposing section of the frame adapted to enter said recess, a spring located beneath the said projection, a catch-button mounted to rock upon the projection, a connection between the catch-button and spring, said catch-button being capable of outward as well as a rocking movement, and means, substantially as described, for preventing the catch-button from turning, as set forth.

4. In a frame for bags, satchels and pocket-books, the combination with a frame having a hinged member provided with a lug, of a chambered button notched to fit upon the frame, a pin secured to the button and loosely extending through the frame, and a bow-spring arranged on the inner face of the frame and to the center of which the inner end of the pin of the button is secured, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LOUIS B. PRAHAR.

Witnesses:

J. FRED. ACKER,

JNO. M. RITTER.