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HANDBAG

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2 Claims. (Cl. 150—28)

This invention relates to handbags and methods of making the same.

One object of the invention is to provide an improvement in the handbag art so that the decorative appearance and neatness thereof are enhanced and the cost of production substantially decreased.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an improvement in the handbag art such that sewing is reduced to a minimum, and securement of certain parts is effected by tacking or stapling to permit the use of unskilled labor and to increase production.

Another object of the invention is to provide improved constructions and methods with particular reference to handbags formed of interlaced elements.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated in the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side view of a device embodying the invention, with parts removed and parts in section.

Fig. 2 is an end view of the device.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the structure at one side of the mouth of the handbag, that at the opposite side being identical therewith.

Fig. 4 is a view of a closed loop element of the bag, illustrating a step in the method invention.

Fig. 5 illustrates a succeeding stage of the method, with the closed loops superimposed and strung together by upright lacing.

Fig. 6 illustrates the next succeeding stage with gusset elements connected to the ends of the upright tapes.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view showing the next succeeding step according to which lining members and slide fastener stringers are connected to the gusset elements.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary view of the next succeeding stage, showing the lining members sewn together to form a lining pocket, but with openings in the lining seam near the slide fastener.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary side view illustrative of the structures of Figs. 7 and 8, and showing the

slide fastener extended to permit the manipulation and showing the said openings of Fig. 8 stitched closed, so that the lining and gussets and projecting slide fastener portions may now be turned into the bag to form the completed handbag of Fig. 1.

Fig. 10 is a view in side elevation showing a modified handbag according to the invention.

Fig. 11 is a view in end elevation thereof.

Fig. 12 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 12—12 of Fig. 10.

Figs. 13 and 14 are fragmentary sectional views showing different modifications of bottom structures for the handbag.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 15 denotes a device, such as a handbag, embodying the invention. The same may include a wall structure comprising interlocked decorative units such as the relatively rigid elements 16, including lacing or tapes such as 17 extending in one or an upright direction and being slidably connected with or strung through the elements 16. If desired, the interlocking arrangement may also include lacing or tapes such as 18 extending in a different or horizontal direction and slidably connected to or strung through the element 16. Certain features of the invention as will be perceived hereinafter may be practised with only one or the other of the lacings 17 and 18; since supplemental or substitute connections may be employed for the lacing that may be omitted. While the lacings or tapes 17 and 18 are strung directly through pairs of opposed holes, they may be otherwise connected or slidably secured to elements 16, or the tapes may be interlaced and the elements secured to only one set of tapes. If preferred, the elements 16 may be directly interengaged in one direction, and a set of tapes employed extending in the opposite direction. All of these different meanings are comprehended in the term "interlocked elements."

The handbag 15 may comprise a bag body including a series of closed loops such as 19, each including a series of the elements 16 strung upon

a tape 18, the ends of which are secured or directly interengaged as by a clip or staple 20. Each element may be hollow, and may be in the nature of a small box whose opposite walls 16a are formed with alined holes for the tapes 17 and 18. Thus the tapes 18 extend through one pair of holes, and the clip 20 may lie within one of the box-like elements 16.

A series of the loops 19 may be superposed on each other to form a tubular or cylindrical structure. To interconnect these loops the lacing 17 is strung through the other alined holes in the elements 16 as shown in Fig. 5. To form a closed end for the tube, each of these tapes 17 is in the form of a U, being continuous at the bottom at 17a, with free end portions 17b projecting beyond the upper open end of the bag body which is thus formed. Obviously, each loop 19 is merely flattened, and in so doing portions of the tapes 18 are exposed at the ends of the bag body. The particular element 16 that contains the clip 20 may lie at any point.

For securing the free end tape portions 17b, devices are employed which may be easily connected to the tapes 17 and infolded into the bag body to exert a toggle-like tension on the tapes 17. For example, gusset strips 21 of relatively stiff material may be used, one along each side of the bag body. To these gussets, the free end tape portions 17b are attached or tacked as by clips or staples 22 for rapid production. A reliable and neat structure is obtained by providing a series of spaced holes 23 in each gusset, alined with its respective adjacent tapes 17, and through which holes the latter are passed preliminary to the tacking at 22, as shown. Now, if the gussets 21 were swung downward into the bag body, they would take up any slack in the tapes 17 and tension the same, and the ends or points of the staples 22 would lie protected and concealed between the elements 16 and the gussets. Also the tapes 17 would overlie the upper edge portions of the gussets and press them toward the adjacent elements 16 for a thin and neat structure.

Preferably, a lining 24 is secured to the gussets 21 before the latter are inserted or infolded into the bag body. Thus a plurality of lining sections 25 are separately secured to the individual gussets 21 as shown in Fig. 7, after which these sections are seamed together as in Fig. 8.

Desirably a slide fastener 26 is secured simultaneously with the lining sections 25. For example, the stringers 27 thereof are stitched to the gussets 21 at 28 directly with the lining sections. Sufficient separation or opening of the slide fastener may be obtained by providing an extra length or depending portions 29 of the slide fastener at the slider 30 as shown especially in Figs. 8 and 9. The stitching 28 is spaced from the staples 22 so that the latter are normally concealed, as indicated in Fig. 1.

Now the lining sections are seamed together, at the top and ends as at 31, desirably leaving small openings as at 32 in the lining adjacent to the mouth of the bag, because the overlap reinforcing seam may not be made to the extreme ends. Now the openings 32 may be tacked or otherwise stitched closed as at 33 in Fig. 9. This completes the handbag, and it is now merely necessary to push the lining 25 into the bag body and flex inward the gussets 21 to produce the finished handbag 15. In so doing, the end portion 29 of the slide fastener is pushed down to lie concealed inside of the bag body between the

latter and the lining 25 as shown in Fig. 1. Hence the limit of open position of the slider 30 is as shown in Fig. 1.

In Figs. 10 to 12 is shown a modified handbag 35 constructed like the handbag 15 and in a like manner, except that a series of decorative units 36 like those at 16 are disposed along the edges of the bag body, at the bottom and ends thereof. The series of these units 36 may be upwardly extended to form a continuous handle 37. At the bag body the tapes 18 are merely laced through the units 36 as before, but an upright tape 38 may be passed through the units 36 and continuously through the handle 37, with the ends of the tape 38 clipped together as at 20. To conceal or close the hollow units 36a which form the handle, a lining 39 of suitably stiff material is secured to the handle by cross lacing 40 stapled at 41 as in Fig. 12, with each tape 40 having its own staple lying therein. Desirably, the tapes 40 are completed first, and then the lining 39 is strung through the loops formed by the tapes 40. The ends of the lining 39 may be concealed between the bag body and a lining therein.

Alternatively, the end and bottom structures of the handbag may be arranged as indicated at 43 in Fig. 13, there being provided a strip of relatively stiff material 44 extending continuously along the bottom and ends of the bag body between adjoining elements 45 which may be like those at 16, and strung on horizontal lacing 46 like those at 18. The upright lacing 47 for elements 45 may be like that at 17, and may be threaded reversely through holes 48 in the strip member 44 as shown to produce a neat decorative effect.

A different finish may be obtained according to Fig. 14, wherein a tubular device 50, having stuffing 51 therein, may extend continuously along the bottom and ends of the bag body, with the lips or flanges 52 of the tube being perforated for the passage therethrough of the upright tapes 53 for the elements 54. In all other respects, the structure of the handbag 15 and its method of manufacture may be employed.

I claim:

1. A handbag having a bag body comprising a series of closed loops, each loop including a series of decorative units and a flexible member interconnecting said units and having its ends interengaged to form the closed loop, said loops being superposed on each other to form a tubular structure that is closed at its lower end, and a series of upright flexible elements interengaging said units and each element extending across the lower end of the tubular structure to thus close the same, so that each element is in the form of a U, gusset strips connected to the upper end portions of each element and lying within the bag body, and a lining secured to the gusset strips to depend therefrom in the bag body.

2. A handbag having a bag body including interengaged decorative units comprising tapes for said units extending to the mouth of the bag body, each of said tapes extending continuously around the bottom of the bag body, and means at the mouth of the latter for securing the tapes, one of the tapes and its units forming a loop extending continuously along the bottom and ends of the bag body and projecting above the latter to form a handle for the bag body, said tape being laced through the units of said loop.

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