Aug. 23, 1960 M. SCHOEN 2,949,951

LADIES' HANDBAGS

Filed Feb. 25, 1958

Fig. 1

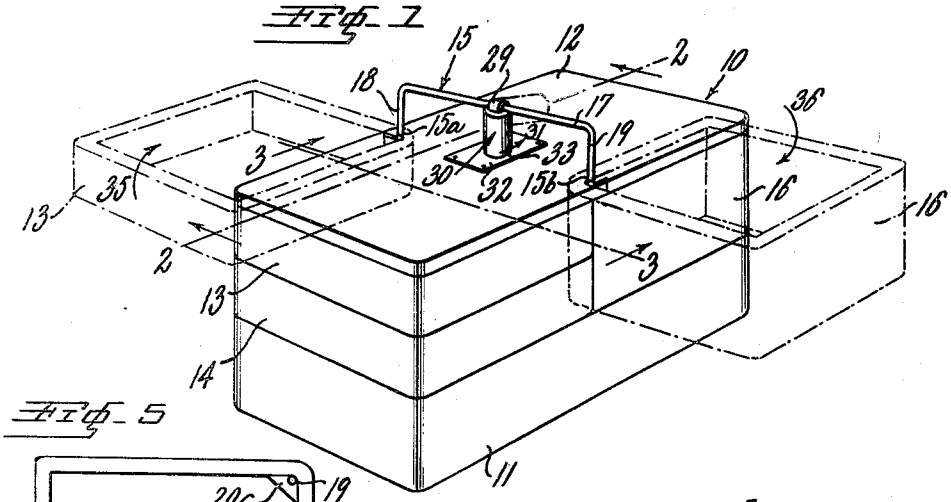


Fig. 5

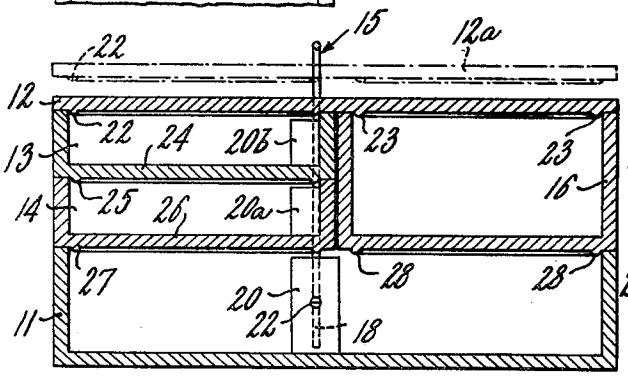


Fig. 2

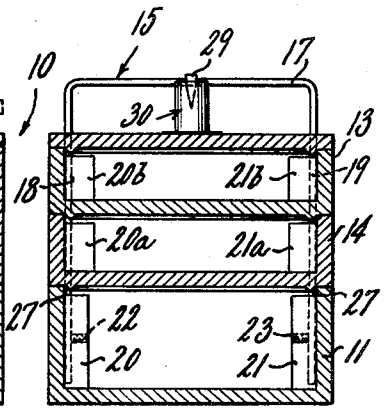


Fig. 3

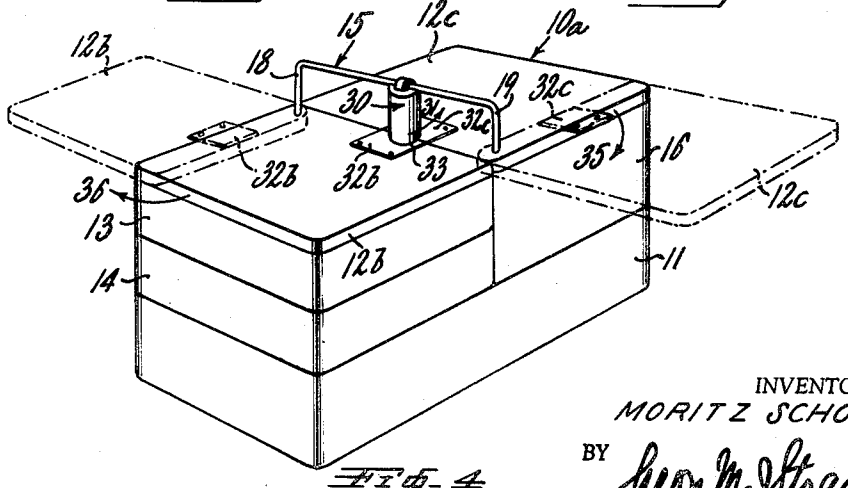


Fig. 4

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LADIES' HANDBAGS

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This invention relates to ladies' handbags and similar carrying cases.

It is one of the objects of the invention to provide means contributing to a very sturdy and practical handbag or carrying structure which is provided with a plurality of compartmental sections, with a top cover therefor, and with a handle the latter forming simultaneously pivot means about which the compartmental sections may be swung into open and closed positions, respectively, said handle further supporting locking means for maintaining said structure in closed position.

It is another object of the invention to provide means facilitating opening and closing of the aforesaid compartmental sections only upon lifting of the cover and upon its release from said locking means, whereby the hand of a person may always remain in engagement with the handle of the carrying structure.

Yet a further object of the present invention resides in the provision of means for moving the compartmental sections of the carrying structure in opposed directions, thereby overcoming the action of interengageable means provided thereon, which automatically adjust and maintain said compartmental sections in superposed position.

Another object of the present invention is to provide means envisioning the accommodation of variously shaped objects in compartmental sections of corresponding dimensions in a carrying case or handbag.

The above and other objects of the invention will become further apparent from the following detailed description, reference being made to the accompanying drawing, showing a preferred embodiment of the invention.

In the accompanying drawing, wherein illustrative embodiments of the invention are shown,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a handbag made in accordance with the present invention, parts being shown in phantom lines;

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along lines 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along lines 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of a modified embodiment according to the invention;

Fig. 5 illustrates a fragmentary and top plan view of a detail.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, there is disclosed a rectangular-shaped handbag or carrying case 10 having a hollow base 11 and a closure cover 12. Case 10 has further compartmental sections 13 and 14 on one side of a handle structure 15 and a further compartmental section 16 on an opposite side of the handle structure.

As more clearly seen in Figs. 2 and 3, the handle 15 is U- or bail-shaped at 17 and comprises two downwardly extending legs 18 and 19, which are fixed in position in the lower compartmental section 11. To this end, the lower compartment 11 has corner blocks or holders 20, 21 with bores or openings into which screw elements 22, 23 extend as to firmly engage the ends of said legs 18, 19 to thereby retain same in certain corners of said compartment.

Similar holders forming guides 20*a*, 21*a* and 20*b*, 21*b* for legs 18, 19 are provided in the respective corners of sections 13, 14 as well as of section 16 (at 20*c*) seen in Figs. 3 and 5.

As can be visualized from Fig. 1, legs 18, 19 extend diagonally across the longitudinal median line of the carrying case 10.

The cover 12 of the case 10 is of reduced thickness and is provided with openings 15*a*, 15*b* whereby the cover may be lifted along legs 18, 19 to a position as shown in phantom lines at 12*a* (Fig. 2).

As will be further seen from Figs. 2 and 3, the underface of cover 12 is provided with two separate downwardly projecting rims 22, 23 so arranged and dimensioned that when cover 12 engages the upper surface of compartmental sections 13 and 16, cover 12 will project with its rims 22, 23 thereinto and will thus be centered thereon. Likewise the outer surface of bottom 24 of compartment 13 is provided with a lower rim projection 25, which projects into the compartment 14 and engages the inner surface of its upright walls defining said compartment 14, whereas section 14 is provided at the outer surface of bottom 26 thereof with a downwardly projecting rim 27 for engagement with the adjacent wall surfaces of compartment 11, whereby the carrying case with its compartmental sections will be arranged in closed position.

Compartment 16 has also a downwardly projecting circumferential rim 28 at its lower bottom surface as seen.

The aforesaid sections 13, 14 and 16 and 11 may therefore be brought in aligned engagement and position to each other, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, whereby cover 12 closes on the case.

Bail-shaped part 17 of handle 15 carries a locking member 30 provided with a loop 29 adapted to swing around handle 15 in accordance with arrow 31. Cover 12, in this instance, is provided with a friction metal or like plate 32 with which the rounded end 33 of element 30 may be brought in frictional engagement, when element 30 is moved in a direction opposite to that of arrow 31.

It now becomes clear that compartment 13, after unlocking element 30 from friction plate 32, and after cover 12 has been slightly lifted, may be swung out from its closed position in the direction of arrow 35 about the respective pivot or leg 18 to a position, as indicated in phantom lines in Fig. 1. Likewise compartment 16 may be swung about pivot 19 from its rest position according to arrow 36 to a position shown in phantom lines in Fig. 1. Rim projections 25 and 28 of compartments 13 and 16 easily overcome, respectively, the abutting engagement with the respective upright walls of compartments 14 and 11, as is well understood.

It is quite apparent that instead of a rim-shaped projection of relatively minute height and integral with the respective bottom underface of the cover and the respective bottom underface of the respective sections other means can be used, such as angularly extending ledges made of rubber or other material attached to such underfaces, as hereinabove referred to.

It will be further recognized in particular from Fig. 5, that the aforesaid holder means for the respective legs or pivot rods 18, 19 extend through corresponding bores or openings provided in respective corners of the rectangular-shaped sections of case 10 although it is well understood that such case may also assume round or oval shapes.

The material of which the carrying case may be made is wood, heavy cardboard with leather covering, plastic or plastic combination, which may be transparent or translucent.

Since the pivot rods **18**, **19** are completely accommodated within the interior of the case and only the U-shaped bail **17** extends therebeyond forming the handle **15**, the carrying case or handbag has otherwise a completely smooth outer surface, not obstructed by any hinges or accessories to operate the carrying case to open and closed positions.

Fig. 4 shows a somewhat modified embodiment of a carrying case **10***a* in which the lower or base section **11**, the upper compartmental sections **13**, **14** and **16** are the same as in Fig. 1. The handle **15** in this case has a weighted, swingable locking element **30** which cooperates with two plate halves **32***b* and **32***c*, respectively, mounted on cover halves **12***b* and **12***c*, which are swingable to phantom line positions about respective pivots or legs **18**, **19**, as seen in Fig. 4. Upon moving element **30** contrary to the direction of arrow **31** disengagement of end **33** of element **30** may be had from plate portion **32***c* to facilitate swinging of upper cover half **12***c* in the direction of arrow **35** thereby assuming the phantom line position of Fig. 4.

Likewise, if desired, the element **30** may be further swung upwardly to disassociate the engaging surface **33** from friction plate **32***b* to thereby permit cover half plate **12***b* to be swung about leg **18** in the direction of arrow **36** to open position, as indicated in phantom lines.

As can be seen from Figs. 1 and 4, the legs **18**, **19** extend from the gripping portion of handle **15** downwardly and at opposite sides of the transverse median axis of the case **10** or **10***a*. The handle part **17** proper thus extends across said median line or axis of the elongated body of which section **11** forms the hollow base.

It can thus be seen that there has been provided, in accordance with the invention, a carrying case, which may form a handbag, comprising an elongated body provided with a stationary lengthy base section having a bottom and upright walls connected thereto bounding the hollow interior of said base section, said walls terminating in an upper end, a plurality of swingable compartmental sections arranged at opposed relation to each other and in superposed position on the upper end of said stationary base section, each compartmental section having a bottom and upright walls extending from said bottom to define the interior of the respective compartmental section, projecting means located at the underface of the bottom of each swingable compartmental section and engaging at least a portion of the inner surfaces of said upright walls of the respective section therebelow when in said superposed position, cover means on top of the uppermost swingable compartmental sections, U-shaped handle means terminating in spaced apart upright legs, said compartmental sections being disposed at opposite sides of a transverse median axis of said elongated body, said U-shaped handle means extending across said transverse median axis and above said cover means, the respective upright legs of said handle means extending through said compartmental sections disposed at said opposite sides of said axis.

The respective upright legs are affixed within the interior of said base section and retaining means are located in the compartmental sections for supporting said legs, said legs forming pivot means for facilitating swinging said compartmental sections from said superposed position to a position away from said base section, thereby overcoming the engagement of said projecting means, respectively, with said inner surfaces of the respective section located therebelow. The aforesaid projecting means facilitate alignment of said movable or swingable sections when returned to their respective superposed position.

Various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention and it is intended that such obvious changes and modifications be embraced by the annexed claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is:

1. A handbag and like carrying case comprising a body provided with a hollow base section having an open upper end, a plurality of compartmental sections arranged in superposed position to said base section, each compartmental section having a bottom and upright walls extending from said bottom and defining the interior of the respective compartmental section, projecting means located at the underface of the bottom of each compartmental section, whereby said projecting means engage at least some of said upright walls at their inner surfaces in said superposed position of said sections, cover means positionable on the top of the uppermost compartmental sections, U-shaped handle means terminating in spaced apart legs passing through corresponding openings provided in said cover means, holder means for said legs located in predetermined corners of said compartmental sections, said holder means being provided with bores to guide said legs therein, which extend from said base section to said cover means, and means anchoring said legs of said handle means on said holder means.

2. A handbag and like carrying case comprising a body provided with a base section having a hollow interior terminating in an open upper end, a plurality of compartmental sections arranged at opposed relation to each other and in superposed position on the upper end of said base section, each compartmental section having a bottom and upright walls extending from said bottom and defining the interior of the respective compartmental section, projecting means located at the underface of the bottom of each compartmental section, whereby said projecting means engage at least some of the inner surfaces of said upright walls in said superposed position of said sections, cover means positionable on the top of said compartmental sections, horizontally extending U-shaped handle means terminating in spaced apart upright legs, one of said legs extending through the interior of said sections located at one side of the median line passing through said base section, the other leg passing at an opposite side of the median line of said base section, said handle means being positioned above said cover means and being anchored through its legs in the interior of said base section and holder means for said legs located in said compartmental sections, said holder means being provided with bores through which said legs extend from said cover means to said base section.

3. A carrying case constituting a handbag; comprising an elongated body provided with a stationary lengthy base section having a bottom and upright walls connected thereto bounding the hollow interior of said base section, said walls terminating in an upper end, a plurality of swingable compartmental sections arranged at opposed relation to each other and in superposed position on the upper end of said stationary base section, each compartmental section having a bottom and upright walls extending from said bottom to define the interior of the respective compartmental section, projecting means located at the underface of the bottom of each swingable compartmental section and engaging at least a portion of the inner surfaces of said upright walls of the respective section therebelow when in said superposed position, cover means on top of the uppermost swingable compartmental sections, U-shaped handle means terminating in spaced apart upright legs, said compartmental sections being disposed at opposite sides of a transverse median axis of said elongated body, said U-shaped handle means extending across said transverse median axis and above said cover means, the respective upright legs of said handle means extending through said compartmental sections disposed at said opposite sides of said axis and

being affixed within the interior of said base section, means located in the compartmental sections for supporting said legs, said legs forming pivot means for facilitating swinging said compartmental sections from said superposed position to a position away from said base section, thereby overcoming the engagement of said projecting means, respectively, with said inner surfaces of the respective section located therebelow, and means pivoted on said U-shaped handle means and extending to said cover means for locking and unlocking the latter with respect to said uppermost swingable compartmental sections.

4. A carrying case constituting a handbag; comprising an elongated body provided with a stationary lengthy base section having upright walls terminating in an upper end and defining the hollow interior of said base section, a plurality of swingable compartmental sections arranged in superposed position on the upper end of said stationary base section, each compartmental section having a bottom and upright walls extending from said bottom to define the interior of the respective compartmental section, aligning means connected to the underface of the bottom of each swingable compartmental section and recessed from the periphery of the latter for engaging the inner surfaces of said upright walls of the respective section when disposed in said superposed position, inverted U-shaped handle means positioned above said compartmental sections and provided with spaced apart upright legs, said compartmental sections retaining for swinging movement thereto respective upright legs projecting through said compartmental sections, said legs being affixed within the interior of said base section, means located in the compartmental sections for retaining said legs for facilitating swinging said compartmental sections from said superposed position to a position away from said base section, thereby overcoming the engagement of said aligning means, respectively, with said inner surfaces of the respective section, and locking means operatively connected to said U-shaped handle means and adapted in one operable position to maintain said compartmental sections in said superposed position and in another operable position to release said compartmental sections for facilitating swinging the latter away from said base section.

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