Sept. 30, 1958 F. K. LOWE 2,854,051

COMBINED PURSE AND BILLFOLD

Filed March 5, 1956

Fig. 1

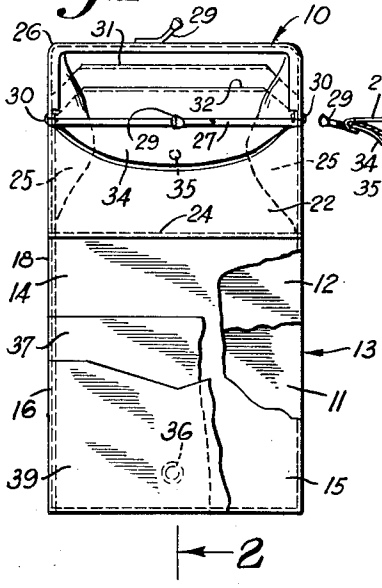


Fig. 2

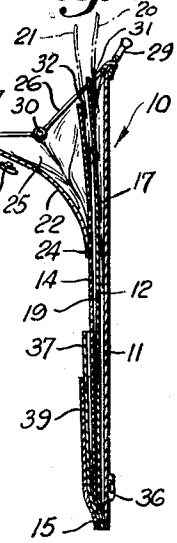


Fig. 3

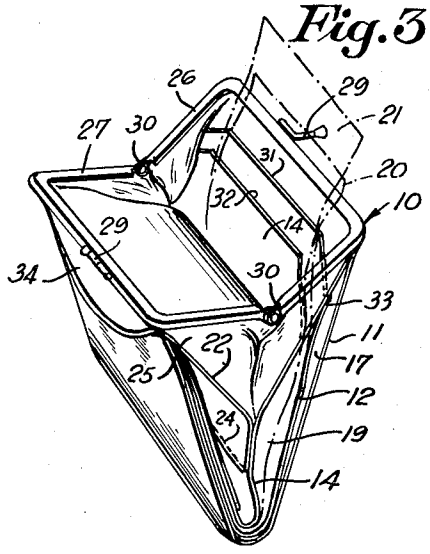


Fig. 5

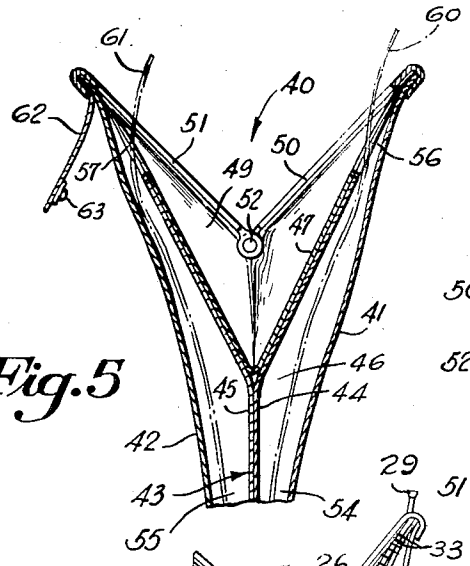


Fig. 4

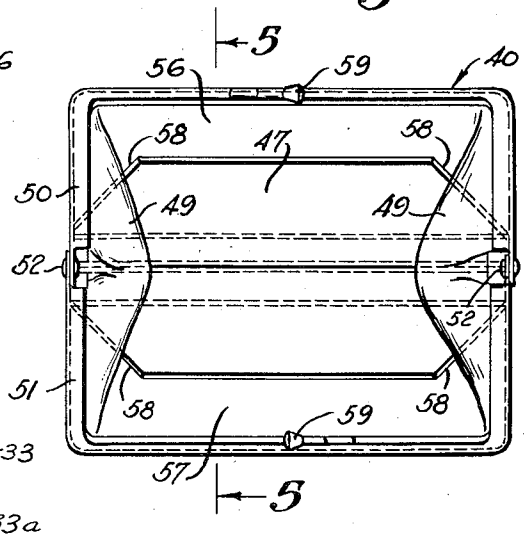
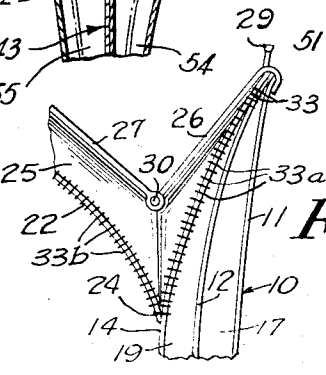


Fig. 3a



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COMBINED PURSE AND BILLFOLD

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5 Claims. (Cl. 150—35)

This invention relates to a combined purse and billfold of improved construction.

The combined purse and billfold of the present invention has a well-defined deep purse of stable configuration and a billfold integral therewith into which bills may be inserted in extended condition. The billfold has at least two separate parallel bill compartments, which communicate with a side wall or the side walls of the purse through slots or mouths which receive money bills lengthwise in unfolded condition, so that bills may be withdrawn endwise from each bill compartment through the respective slots.

The combined purse and billfold of the invention is generally of the type shown in Patent No. 2,298,543. Such device is handy, compact, and retains both coins and money bills securely. The bill compartment or wallet section of the device is foldable transversely to its length, whereby to conserve space and to retain the bills more securely. Bills may be taken from the open change purse section without unfolding or otherwise opening the wallet section. Such prior devices, however, have only one bill compartment. When a number of bills of mixed denominations are retained in the bill compartment of such prior device, the user must pay close attention, when he withdraws one or more bills endwise from the bill compartment through the slot, to make sure that he is taking out a bill or bills of the desired value.

The present invention overcomes such disadvantages of the described prior devices by providing a combined purse and billfold having at least two separate, generally similar bill compartments communicating with the recess of the purse through separate slots in a wall or the walls of the purse, whereby to allow endwise withdrawal of bills in laterally extended condition from both bill compartments through the respective slots. The combined purse and billfold of the present invention is of such construction that at least two bill compartments are provided therein without adding appreciably to the bulk of the device, and with but little addition of weight thereto.

The invention has among its objects the provision of an improved combined purse and billfold having a plurality of separate money bill-holding compartments. A further object of the invention resides in the provision of a combined purse and billfold of the type indicated of attractive, generally symmetrical appearance when the billfold or wallet portion thereof is folded. Yet another object of the invention lies in the provision of a combined purse and billfold having a plurality of separate bill-holding compartments, there being separate, distinct slots or mouths connecting the ends of the respective bill compartments with a wall or wall of the purse.

Still another object of the invention, in one preferred embodiment thereof, is the provision of a combined purse and billfold having a plurality of bill-holding compartments on one side of the purse of the device, the slots or mouths connecting the ends of the billfold compartments lying in spaced relation on one side wall of the purse.

Still another object of the invention, in another preferred embodiment thereof, is the provision of a combined purse and billfold having a plurality of bill-holding compartments with at least one such compartment disposed on each side of the purse, the slots or mouths connecting the ends of such bill-holding compartments lying on opposite walls of the purse.

The above and further objects of the invention, such as economy of manufacture and ease of use thereof, will be more readily apparent upon consideration of the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of the specification.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of a combined purse and billfold made in accordance with a first disclosed embodiment of the invention, the device being shown with the purse open and the bill-holding or wallet portion thereof in unfolded condition, the view being taken in a direction toward the normally closed side of the wallet portion, portions of the various layers or strips forming the device being broken away at the lower right hand corner of the figure.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the first-embodiment of the device in the condition of Fig. 1, money bills being shown in the two bill-holding compartments in positions in which they are partially endwardly removed from such compartments through slots in a wall of the purse communicating with such compartments, the section being taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view in perspective of the first embodiment of the device with the billfold or wallet portion thereof in folded condition, the purse being in open condition, bills in the billfold compartments being shown partially withdrawn endwise through the slots in a side wall of the purse.

Figure 3*a* is a diagram showing the connection of the inner and intermediate strips.

Fig. 4 is a plan of a second embodiment of the combined purse and billfold of the invention, the purse being in open position.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary vertical section through such second embodiment of the device, the billfold portion of the device being in unfolded position, the section being taken along line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

As evident from the above, there are shown and described herein two presently preferred embodiments of the combined purse and billfold of the present invention. The first embodiment is shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, where it is generally designated **10**; the second embodiment is shown in Figs. 4 and 5, where it is generally designated **40**.

Device **10** has a body formed of superimposed elongated flexible strips made of material such as leather, textile fabric, plastic sheet material, or suitable combinations of such materials. The body includes an outer, first strip of flexible material **11** of such length that money bills may be laid smoothly against it at their full length. Strip **11** forms an outer wall member of the body of the device. A second, slightly shorter intermediate strip **12** of flexible material, and a third, still shorter inner strip **14** of flexible material, in that order, are superimposed upon strip **11**, as shown. Strips **11**, **12**, and **14** are secured together along their lower edges, as by a row or rows of stitching **15**, and are further secured together along one side edge, as by a row or rows of stitching **16**. The three strips thus define outer, intermediate, and inner wall members respectively, which form two bill-holding compartments **17** (between strips **11** and **12**) and **19** (between strips **12** and **14**). The compartments are closed at their lower ends (Figs. 1 and 2) and at the edge **18** of the body, but are open at edge **13** of the body. Bills in unfolded condition may thus be introduced into the compartments **17** and **19**, when the wallet portion of the device is in unfolded condition, through the open sides of such compartments at side **13** of the body. In Figs. 2 and 3 bills **20** and **21**, respectively, are in compartments **17** and **19**, such bills being shown

partially withdrawn endwise from the compartments through slots, to be described, through a side wall of the purse.

The upper portion of inner strip **14** has a further, shorter branch portion **22** connected thereto at the bottom of the latter, as by a row or rows of stitching **24**. The V-shaped purse recess or coin compartment of the device is completed by two triangular inserts or gussets **25**, of flexible sheet material, which form the opposite end walls of the purse. Gussets **25** are secured at their edges, as by a row or rows of stitching, to the confronting edges of inner strip **14** and branch strip **22**. Two frame parts **26** and **27**, pivotally connected at their ends at **30** and detachably held in closed position by clasp parts **29**, are crimped over or otherwise secured to the upper edges of the branch strip **22**, the respective portion of the upper edges of gussets **25**, and to the upper edge of outer strip **11**. The upper corners of strip **11** are preferably attached, as by a row of stitching, to the confronting upper corners of the gussets **25** which lie outwardly of the frame part **26**. The upper outer corner of intermediate strip **12** is secured to the edge of its confronting gusset **25**, outwardly of the inner edge of frame part **26**, by stitching **33** extending for a short length substantially equal to the distance between slots **31** and **32**. The inner strip **14** is connected with the gusset **25** by the stitching **33***a* shown in Figure 3*a* extending between the stitching **24** and the upper edge or mouth **31** of the strip **14**. The strip **22** is connected to the gusset **25** along its entire edge by the stitching **33***b*.

The left hand side wall of the purse or coin compartment, as it is shown in Figs. 2 and 3, is imperforate, being formed by the upper end of branch strip **22** and a layer of purse lining material (not shown in Fig. 2) if such lining material is used. The right hand side wall of the purse has two horizontal slots or mouths **31** and **32** therethrough adjacent the upper edge thereof below the long horizontal edge of frame part **26**. Such slots communicate with the ends of bill-holding compartments **17** and **19**, respectively, and are of such width as to allow the withdrawal of bills therethrough in flat, fully laterally extended condition. Because of the fact that strip **14** is somewhat shorter than strip **12**, and strip **12**, in turn, is somewhat shorter than strip **11**, the two slots or mouths **31** and **32** are well separated vertically from each other, and both lie well inwardly of the upper edge of the purse. Consequently, the user's fingers can readily differentiate between the two slots, so that when he makes the practice of placing all his dollar bills in one bill-holding compartment and bills of higher denomination in the other he may safely withdraw and dispense dollar bills by touch, in a dark or dimly lighted area. Because the slots **31** and **32** are located well up toward the top of the purse side wall, there is little or no tendency for coins to escape from the purse through the slots. For neatness of appearance, and to facilitate removal of bills from the slots or insertion of bills into the compartments through the slots, the upper corners of strips **12** and **14** are bevelled, as shown.

The wallet or bill-holding portion of the device **10** may be folded generally mid-way of its length to form a more compact object. To hold the device **10** in such position, there is provided a flap **34** which depends from the long side of frame part **27**, the flap carrying an inwardly facing male fastener part **35**. Positioned on strip **11** at the bottom of the device so as to cooperate with fastener part **35** is a female fastener part **36**. When the wallet portion of the device is folded as in Fig. 3 and the fastener parts are engaged, the device is securely held in the condition there shown. In such folded condition of the device, the purse may be opened and closed at will, and bills may be freely withdrawn from compartments **17** and **19** through slots **31** and **32**.

If desired, the device may incorporate card-holding pockets, preferably disposed, as shown, on the lower end of inner strip. In Fig. 2 two such pockets are shown, formed between strip **14** and shorter strips **37** and **39** attached thereto at their side and bottom edges.

The combined purse and billfold **40** of Figs. 4 and 5 differs from that above described by having its bill-holding compartments disposed symmetrically with respect to the purse and on opposite sides therof, and the slots communicating with the ends of the respective bill-holding compartments disposed on opposite side walls of the purse.

As shown in Fig. 5, device **40** includes a first, outer strip **41**, a second, inner strip **42**, and a third, intermediate strip, generally designated **43**, made up of two similar strips **44** and **45** which are face-attached to each other from their bottom edges up to a zone **46** at which they branch away from each other. Strips **41**, **42**, and **43** are secured together at their bottoms and along one side up to zone **46**, the other side edges being open. A lining layer **47** overlies the upper faces of strips **44** and **45** at their upper branched portions. The purse portion of the device includes two oppositely disposed triangular inserts or gussets **49** which are secured at their edges, as by being sewed, to the confronting edges of the branched upper portions of strips **44** and **45**. The upper edges of gussets **49** are secured to the respective rigid C-shaped frame parts **51** and **50**, which are pivoted together at their ends at **52**. The upper edges of outer and inner strips **41** and **42** are secured to the long horizontal portions of the frame parts. The upper corners of strips **41** and **42** are secured outwardly of the inner edges of the frame parts, as by stitching, to the confronting upper outer corners of the gussets. The upper, branched portions of strips **44** and **45** are somewhat shorter than strips **41** and **42**.

There is thus formed a combined purse and billfold having two bill holding compartments **54** (formed by strips **41** and **43**) and **55** (formed by strips **42** and **43**), symmetrically disposed on opposite sides of the purse portion of the device. Since the upper edges of strips **44** and **45**, and of the lining **47**, lie below the upper edges of strips **41** and **42**, and thus below the long portion of frame parts **51** and **50**, there are accordingly formed horizontal slots or mouths **56** and **57** communicating, respectively, with the upper ends of bill-holding compartments **54** and **55**. Such slots allow the endwise withdrawal in flat condition of money bills **60** and **61** from the compartments **54** and **55** when the purse portion of device **40** is open as in Figs. 4 and 5. The purse portion may be held closed by the coacting clasp portions **59** on frame parts **50** and **51**. Preferably, the upper corners of the upper branched portions of strips **44** and **45** and their lining **47** are bevelled or slanted off, as shown at **58**, to prevent such upper corners from becoming dog-eared and to facilitate the removal of bills from compartments through slots **56** and **57**, if desired.

The wallet portion of device **40**, like that of device **10**, is foldable transversely generally mid-way of its length. A flap **62** is provided on the upper edge of the device confronting its inner side, such flap bearing an inwardly facing fastener part **63** adapted to cooperate with another fastener part (not shown) attached to the lower portion of the outer strip **41**.

The device **40** is particularly of advantage, since by reason of the placement of flap **62** on the inner side of the device the user may readily differentiate by feel alone the slot **56** from the slot **57**. Thus when bills of one denomination are placed in one compartment and those of another denomination are placed in the other compartment, there is very little chance of withdrawing the wrong bill once the user has familiarized himself with the device and the relative location of its parts.

Whereas for purposes of illustration I have shown and described two presently preferred embodiments of the combined purse and billfold of my invention, it will be understood that such embodiments are illustrative only,

since the device is capable of numerous variations as to details. The scope of the invention is, therefore, to be defined by the claims appended hereto.

What I claim is:

1. A combined purse and billfold comprising an outer strip of flexible material of such length that money bills at their full length may be laid smoothly against it, said outer strip forming an outer wall element, an intermediate strip of flexible material, and an inner strip of flexible material, the intermediate and inner strips forming intermediate and inner wall members, respectively, paralleling the length of the outer strip, the intermediate and inner wall members being attached to the outer wall element along the bottom edge and along one side to form two separate parallel bill compartments, one of said wall members having a branch portion, foldable end wall members interposed between said one wall member and said branch portion to form a V-shaped coin compartment open at the top to define an entrance for access to said coin compartment, the upper ends of the bill compartments communicating with the interior of the coin compartment through slots formed in the latter, said slots accommodating the ends of paper money bills, said outer wall element and said intermediate and inner wall members being foldable transversely to their length.

2. A combined purse and billfold comprising an outer strip of flexible material of such length that money bills at their full length may be laid smoothly against it, said outer strip forming an outer wall member, an intermediate strip of flexible material, and an inner strip of flexible material the intermediate and inner strips of material forming intermediate and inner wall members, respectively, paralleling the length of the outer strip, the intermediate and inner wall members being attached to the outer wall member along the bottom edge and along one side to form two separate parallel bill compartments, said intermediate wall member having a branch member, said branch member having interposed between it and said intermediate wall member foldable end wall members to form a V-shaped coin compartment open at the top to define an entrance for access to said coin compartment, the upper ends of the intermediate wall member and its branch lying below the upper ends of the outer and inner wall members and forming a part of the side walls of the coin compartment, the upper ends of the intermediate wall and its branch being attached at their sides to the end wall members, whereby slots communicating with the respective bill compartments are formed between the intermediate wall member and its branch and the respective outer and inner wall members for accommodating the ends of paper money bills, the wall members being foldable intermediate their length so that portions of the inner wall member confront each other.

3. A combined purse and billfold comprising an outer strip of flexible material of such length that money bills at their full length may be laid smoothly against it, said outer strip forming an outer wall member, an intermediate strip of flexible material, and an inner strip of flexible material, the intermediate and inner strips of material forming intermediate and inner wall members, respectively, paralleling the length of the outer strip, the intermediate and inner wall members being attached to the outer wall member along the bottom edge and along one side to form two separate parallel bill compartments, said intermediate wall member having a branch member, said branch member having interposed between it and said intermediate wall member foldable end wall members to form a V-shaped coin compartment open at the top to define an entrance for access to said coin compartment, the upper ends of the intermediate wall member and its branch lying below the upper ends of the outer and inner wall members and forming a part of the inner side of the coin compartment, the upper ends of the intermediate wall and its branch being attached at their sides to the end wall members outwardly of the sides of the entrance of the coin compartment, whereby slots on opposite side walls of the purse communicating with the respective bill compartments are formed between the intermediate wall member and its branch and the respective outer and inner wall members for accommodating the ends of paper money bills, the wall members being foldable intermediate their length so that portions of the inner wall member confront each other, and means for detachably securing the wall members in such folded condition.

4. A combined purse and billfold comprising an outer strip of flexible material of such length that money bills at their full length may be laid smoothly against it, said outer strip forming an outer wall member, an intermediate strip of flexible material, and an inner strip of flexible material, the intermediate and inner strips of material forming intermediate and inner wall members, respectively, paralleling the length of the outer strip, the intermediate and inner wall members being attached to the outer wall member along the bottom edge and along one side to form two separate parallel bill compartments, said intermediate wall member having a branch member, said branch member having interposed between it and said intermediate wall member foldable end wall members to form a V-shaped coin compartment open at the top to define an entrance for access to said coin compartment, the upper ends of the intermediate wall member and its branch lying below the upper ends of the outer and inner wall members and forming a part of the inner side walls of the coin compartment, the upper ends of the intermediate wall and its branch being attached at their sides to the end wall members, whereby slots communicating with the respective bill compartments are formed between the intermediate wall member and its branch and the respective outer and inner wall members for accommodating the ends of paper money bills, the wall members being foldable intermediate their length so that portions of the inner wall member confront each other, the slots being located in the opposite side walls of the coin compartment adjacent the upper edges of such walls, the upper ends of the intermediate wall member and its branch forming the greater part of the opposite side walls of the coin compartment.

5. A combined purse and billfold, comprising an outer strip of flexible material forming an outer wall member of such length that money bills may be laid at their full length smoothly against it, an intermediate strip of flexible material forming an intermediate wall member of shorter length than said outer wall member and having a lower edge located opposite the lower edge of said outer wall member, said outer wall member and said intermediate wall member forming one bill compartment for money bills of a certain denomination, an inner strip of flexible material forming an inner wall member of shorter length than said intermediate wall member and having a lower edge located opposite the lower edges of said outer and intermediate wall members, said intermediate wall member and said inner wall member forming a second bill compartment for money bills of a different denomination, said intermediate and inner wall members paralleling the length of said outer wall member, said lower edges of the wall members being connected together to close one end of each of the two bill compartments, said wall members being connected together along one side to close the two bill compartments along one side, said wall members having other unattached side edges providing entrances for the insertion of bills into the two bill compartments, a branch member connected along its lower edge to said inner wall member intermediate the upper and lower edges of said inner wall member and extending opposite said outer and intermediate wall members, whereby a coin compartment is formed between said branch member and an upper portion of said inner wall member, triangular end wall members respectively connecting opposite side edges of said branch member and of the upper portion of said inner wall member to form the end walls of the coin

compartment, and means secured to the upper edges of said branch member and said outer wall member to releasably connect these upper edges to close the coin compartment, the upper edge of said branch member being located opposite the upper edge of said outer wall member when the coin compartment is closed, the upper edge of said intermediate wall extending below the upper edge of said outer wall member and being attached adjacent the corners only to said outer wall member, whereby a slot is formed between the upper edge of said intermediate wall member and said outer wall member on the inner side of said coin compartment to provide communication between said coin compartment and said one bill compartment, the upper edge of said inner wall member extending below the upper edge of said intermediate wall member and forming with said intermediate

wall member a second slot located below the first-mentioned slot on the inner side of said coin compartment to provide communication between said coin compartment and said second bill compartment, said wall members being foldable against said branch member.

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