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I. MACHINIST
DUPLEX HANDBAG FOR WOMEN
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Fig. 1.

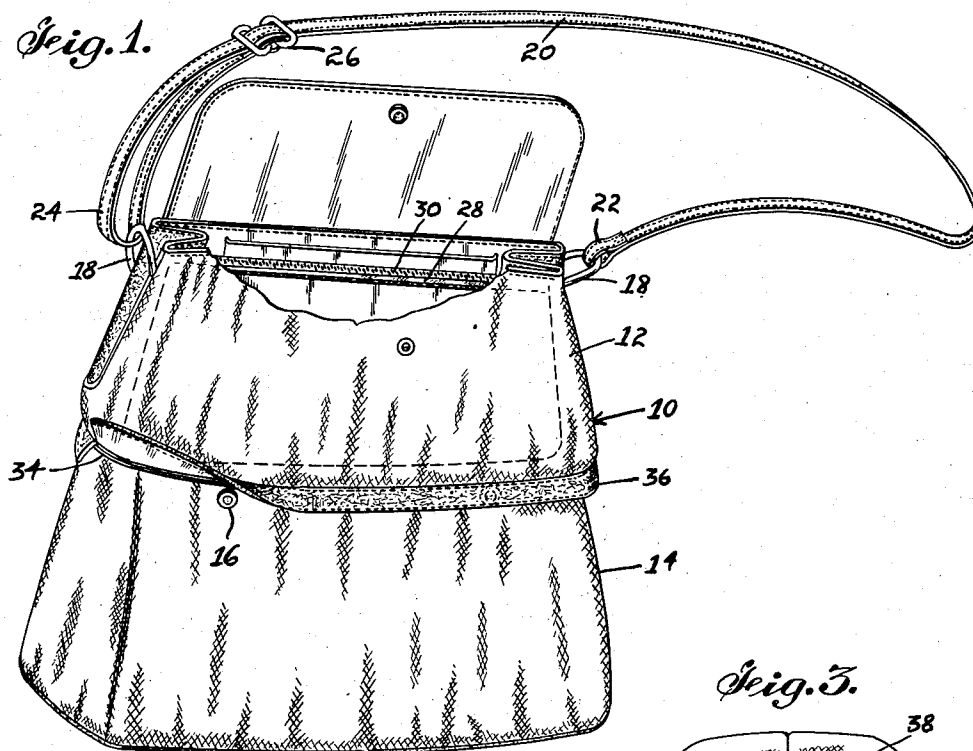


Fig. 2.

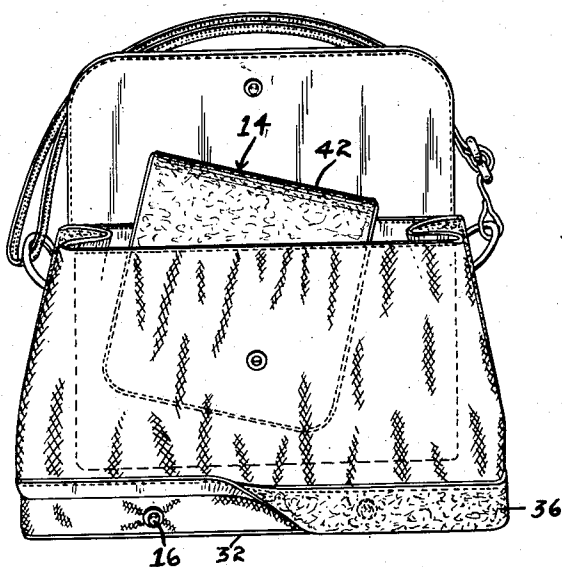
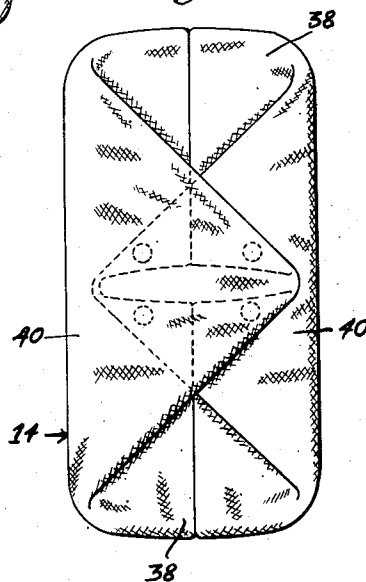


Fig. 3.



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DUPLEX HANDBAG FOR WOMEN

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1 Claim. (Cl. 150—28)

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This invention relates to a duplex handbag for women.

The principal object of this invention is the provision of a handbag consisting of two units, one unit comprising an entire handbag which may be used independently of the other unit, and the other unit comprising an auxiliary handbag appurtenant to the first unit and detachably secured thereto. The second unit may be removed from its operative position relative to the first unit, it may then be folded to compact proportions, and it may then be inserted into an inner compartment within the first unit where it will be concealed and stored until such time as it is desired to make use of it. At that time, the second unit may be removed from the inner compartment within the first unit, it may then be unfolded and again detachably secured to the first unit in operative position relative thereto.

The first unit is a complete handbag in itself. It may be made in any desirable size, shape and style and of any desired materials. It may include any and all of the usual accoutrements of women's handbags, including a strap for carrying purposes, if desired, inner compartments and pockets, attached purses, and all other components and accessories common to women's handbags.

The second or auxiliary unit is simply a bag or container with means for detachably securing it to the bottom of the main or first unit. In the preferred form of this invention, the auxiliary unit is closed at the bottom and sides and open at the top and it is detachably secured in hanging or dependent fashion to the bottom of the main unit, the bottom wall of the main unit thereby serving as a closure for the top of the auxiliary. The size and shape of the auxiliary unit should correspond to the size and shape of the main unit to the extent required to properly fasten the two units together and also to the extent necessary to present attractive appearance and styling. In the preferred form of this invention, the bottom of the main bag is inserted into the open top of the auxiliary bag in order to fasten the two bags together. In other words, the main bag nests, in part, within the auxiliary bag and this should be taken into account in determining the relative dimensions and proportions of the two bags. The respective depths of the two bags may vary both absolutely and relatively in accordance with individual preferences and requirements.

An important feature of this invention is the provision of an apron or skirt on the main bag

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which overlaps the upper edges of the auxiliary bag when the two bags are attached to each other in order to conceal the dividing line between the two bags and the fastening elements which secure them together. The two bags appear to be a single bag when they are attached together and this adds to the value and appearance which they provide.

Another important feature of this invention is the adjustable strap which is secured to the main bag. This strap may be extended to shoulder length or contracted to be carried by hand.

The auxiliary bag may, if desired, be provided with a water-tight or water-resistant lining so that it may be used to carry wet or damp articles, such as baby diapers, bathing suits, plastic raincoats, rubbers, collapsible umbrellas and the like. It may also be used to carry lunch, baby bottles, baby formulas and the like.

A preferred form of this invention is shown in the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a duplex handbag made in accordance with this invention, the two units which comprise said bag being shown secured to each other, the skirt or apron of the main bag being turned upwardly in part to show the means for detachably securing the two bags together, the main bag being partly broken away to expose the inner pocket which receives the auxiliary bag when said bag is detached from the main bag and folded to compact proportions.

Fig. 2 is a front perspective view of the main bag, showing the auxiliary bag detached therefrom, folded and partly inserted into the pocket in the main bag, the skirt or apron of the main bag being elevated in part to show one of the fastening elements on the main bag which co-operates with the corresponding fastening element on the auxiliary bag.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the auxiliary bag, showing its sides and ends folded upon themselves preparatory to the final folding operation which produces the result shown in Fig. 2.

It will be seen in the drawing that duplex handbag 10 comprises a main handbag 12, an auxiliary bag 14, and fastening elements 16 for detachably securing said bags together. Main handbag 12 is a full and complete bag which may be made in any desired size, shape and style. It may be made either with a frame or without a frame, as desired. In the preferred form of this invention, the main handbag is provided with a pair of rings 18 which support a carrying strap 20. One end 22 of said strap is secured to one of said rings and the opposite end

24 of said strap is looped around the other ring. A slip buckle 26 is provided for enlarging said loop or reducing it in size. When the loop is reduced, the effect is to lengthen or extend the strap so that it may be used as a shoulder strap. See Fig. 1. When the loop is enlarged, the effect is to double the strap and thereby shorten it to hand carrying proportions.

A pocket 28 is provided in the main handbag 12 and a slide fastener 30 may be provided as a closure for said pocket. The pocket may be used for any and all of the conventional purposes of handbag pockets but in the present invention it performs another very important function which will shortly be explained.

It will be seen that fastening elements 16 consist of two groups of cooperative elements, one group being secured to the main handbag, adjacent its bottom wall 32 and the other group being secured to the auxiliary bag adjacent its top edge 34. These two groups of fastener elements coact with each other in conventional manner to secure the auxiliary bag to the main handbag. Illustrative of suitable fastening elements are snap fasteners as shown in the drawing.

It will be noted that the auxiliary bag 14 is suspended from the bottom of the main handbag and it will also be noted that the auxiliary bag is closed at the bottom and sides and open at the top. The open top of the auxiliary bag is large enough to receive the bottom of the main handbag in nested fashion. When the two bags are in this position, as shown in Fig. 1, the fastener elements of the main handbag register with the fastener elements of the auxiliary bag and the two bags may thereby be detachably secured to each other. It will be seen that a skirt or apron 36 is provided along the bottom of the main handbag and it forms what may be described as a continuous flap or a pair of continuous flaps whose respective ends meet at the ends of the main handbag. This skirt or apron may be folded over as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 to facilitate attachment of the two bags to each other or detachment of the two bags from each other.

The important advantage of this skirt or apron is the fact that it conceals the dividing line between the two bags when they are secured together and it also conceals the fastener elements which secure said bags together. When the two bags are secured together, they appear as one; when the main handbag is used alone, the skirt or apron conceals its fastener elements and thereby

conceals the fact that the handbag may be supplemented by another bag.

The auxiliary bag may be folded in the manner shown in Figs. 3 and 2 so that it may be inserted into pocket 28. The following steps should preferably be followed in folding said auxiliary bag: First the ends 38 of the bag are folded over upon the bottom of the bag, then the sides 40 are folded over upon the folded ends and upon themselves, and finally the entire folded unit is folded over upon itself or doubled upon a transverse folding line 42 which extends centrally of said unit, equidistant from its two ends. The folded auxiliary bag is now small enough to be inserted into the inner pocket 28 of the main handbag 12. See Fig. 2.

The foregoing is illustrative of a preferred form of this invention and it will be understood that this preferred form may be modified and other forms may be provided within the broad spirit of the invention and the broad scope of the claim.

I claim:

In a duplex bag construction, a main unit comprising a complete handbag, fastener elements carried by the sides of the handbag adjacent the bottom thereof; an auxiliary unit formed of flexible and foldable material and comprising a bag-like body having a closed bottom, sides and an open top, the upper edge portion of the bag-like body adapted to enclose the lower edge portion of the complete handbag, complementary fastener elements carried by the sides of the bag-like body for detachable engagement with the respective fastener elements on the handbag of the main unit to secure the bag-like body in enclosing relation with respect to the complete handbag, and a skirt portion depending from the lower portion of the handbag beyond the fastener elements thereof and extending completely around the upper edge portion of the bag-like body of the auxiliary unit when the latter is attached to the main unit for concealing the fastener elements as well as the upper edge of the bag-like body.

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