May 11, 1943. L. KAPHAN 2,318,694

HANDBAG

Filed Nov. 20, 1942

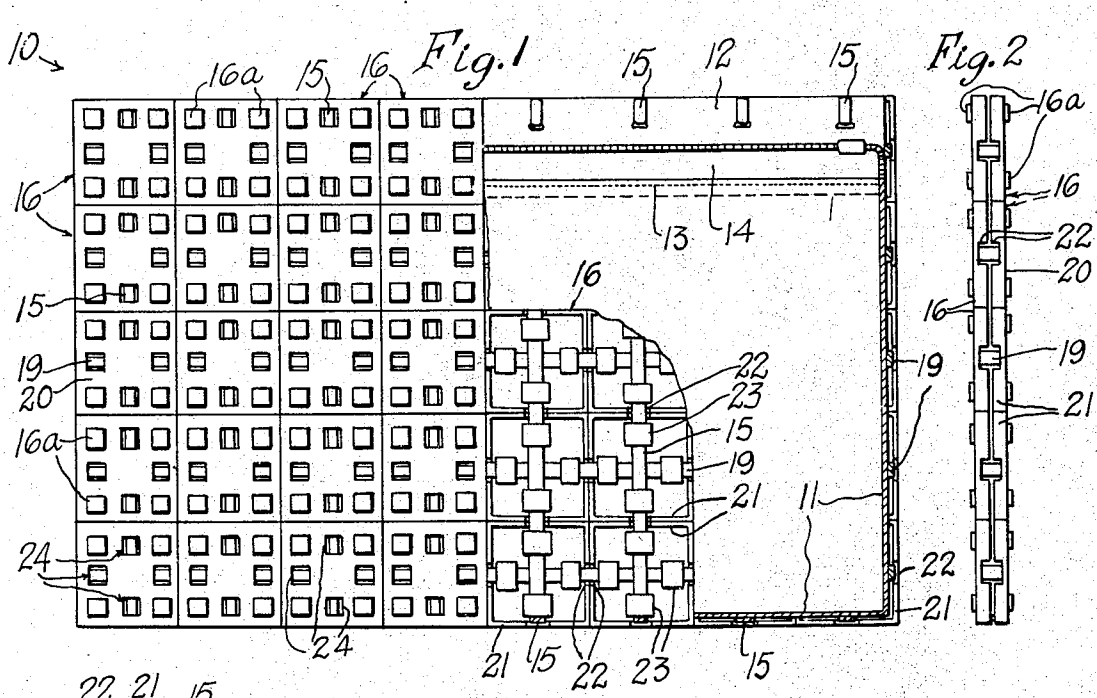


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

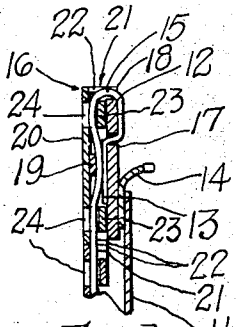


Fig. 3

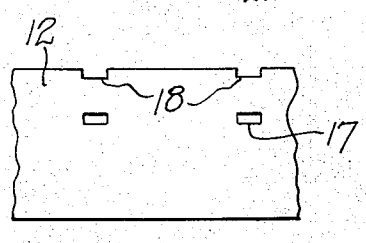


Fig. 4

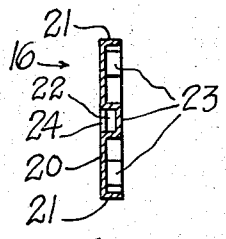


Fig. 5

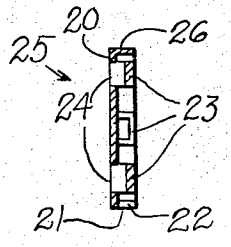


Fig. 6

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HANDBAG

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Application November 20, 1942, Serial No. 466,532

8 Claims. (Cl. 150—28)

This invention relates to devices such as handbags.

One object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described having improved means comprising decorative or wear resisting elements and tapes for mounting the same in whole or in part to realize a superior construction which is adapted for the production of novel design characteristics.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device of the nature set forth, as in a handbag whose walls comprise or are supplemented by a multiplicity of interlaced hollow, rigid elements, with the lacing extending to the extreme bottom and end edges of the handbag, wherein the following advantages are obtained:

1. Exposure of the lacing at the edges of the handbag is avoided, and to the contrary the lacing is retracted into the elements to be protected thereby.

2. Wear of the lacing within the elements is reduced as by broad engaging surface portions of eyes offset from the main wall of each element.

3. The lacing may follow paths at the edges of the handbag which are curved or otherwise adjustable, thus avoiding breakage of certain special lacing and allowing for the stiffness or resilience of the lacing or of coating portions therefor.

4. Almost any kind of lacing, whether in the nature of tapes of textile or composition materials or even of plastics may be used.

5. Window openings may be provided in the main wall directly opposite the offsets or eyes without thickening the material or resorting to other complications, and where the article is made of plastic it lends itself readily to simple molding operations, and the strength of the element is maintained by the offsets bridging the windows.

6. Greater resilience in the element and less liability to breakage is afforded by interrupting the marginal flanges thereof to afford openings for the lacing, with the offsets affording a reenforcement at said openings.

7. The color and design of the lacing affords an inherent design feature visible through said windows and being maintained against sagging by the underlying broad offset portions through which the lacing is strung.

8. Lacing that is relatively thick, such as that made of folded or flat tubular leather or composition material may be readily used and follow a gradual curved line at the edges of the handbag without protrusion from the element because the offset portions are spaced from the flanges of the element so that the lacing may be only partially in the flange openings or wholly spaced from the latter.

9. A plastic color or appearance like that of the elements may be afforded as a background for the lacing, if the latter be narrower than their supporting offset portions causing the latter to show and yet concealing the lining or other unfinished underlying parts of the handbag.

10. Flexibility for the handbag in a high degree is afforded because the elements are not restrained at their extreme edges, and yet the shape of the handbag walls is better maintained by flatwise edge abutment of the elements, avoiding a condition whereby the handbag walls appear to break in different angles.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a handbag which shall realize all of the foregoing advantages, with improved features adapted for carrying out the advantages in all parts of the handbag as may be desired.

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

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

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation showing a handbag embodying the invention with parts removed and in section.

Fig. 2 is an edge view thereof.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of a portion thereof, but with certain decorative portions of the laced elements omitted.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary side view of a member for interconnecting the vertical lacing with the lining.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of an element along a line other than at the center thereof as in Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of an element as in Fig. 3, but showing a modified element adapted to substantially conceal the lacing at an edge of 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 this 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, 10 denotes a device such as a handbag embodying the invention. The same may include a bag or lining 11 connected at the mouth to relatively stiff strip members 12 by stitching 13. Also secured by said stitching are the slide fastener stringers 14 or other closure means as may be desired. To these members 12 is connected the vertical lacing 15 whereby the decorative elements 16 are suspended. To afford a neat finish, the member 12 at each side of the bag is formed with openings 17 so that the vertical lacing is passed over the members 12 and then downwardly through the openings 17 into connection with the members 12, for example, at the stitching 13. These details of the structure are as disclosed in U. S. Pat. No. 2,294,089 issued Aug. 28, 1942 to Rudolph Lobel for Handbags, and certain teachings of that patent may be incorporated herein by reference. In the instant case, the construction is improved by the provision of cut-outs 18 aligned with the openings 17 and being arranged to snugly receive the vertical lacing so that no part thereof projects and is subject to wear. This is clearly shown in Fig. 3 and is rendered possible by the improved elements 16 which will now be described. However, it will be appreciated that the elements may be mounted on a support or connected with a lining in other ways.

It is to be noted that in Figs. 3, 5 and 6, the ornamental squares 16*a* are omitted, but the elements 16 are otherwise the same and hence are designated by the same numeral.

The elements 16 are also interconnected by horizontal lacing 19, each tape extending clear around the bag with its ends interconnected to form a ring, or each tape may terminate at the opposed ends of the bag where it may be connected to the lining at the seam thereof or otherwise secured. In any case, the horizontal lacing does not project so as to be subject to wear, but is protected by the adjacent elements 16. Precisely the same arrangement is carried out at the bottom of the bag as at the ends thereof, and the principle is indicated at the mouth of the bag at members 12, as already described.

Each element 16 is a hollow structure having a main wall 20 and side flanges 21 forming a shallow box which is open toward the lining. Each flange is centrally interrupted to form a slot or undercut 22 which is preferably wholly open at the free edge of the flange. The flanges are otherwise continuous and continuously connected to the wall 20 of the element.

Aligned with each opening 22 is an adjacent eye member 23 which is preferably spaced from the flange. All the eye members are connected to the wall 20, and desirably a window opening 24 is formed confronting the eye member or communicating therewith. Each eye member is arranged to receive a lacing such as 15 or 19 and is relatively broad to afford ample backing for the lacing. Since the eye members are of substantially the same size as the window openings 24, they may serve to hold the lacing snugly against the window openings. If, as shown, the lacing be somewhat narrower than the window openings, the eye members will prevent visibility through the windows and will afford a neat and attractive background of the color or character of the material of the elements and thus conceal the lining or other underlying structure.

The lacing 15 and 19 extends through the eye members 23 and through the flange opening 22, the lacing crossing centrally of the elements 16 within the hollow space thereof, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. The horizontal lacing then appears as such in the windows 24, and the vertical lacing similarly appears as such at its windows. Tapes of different color and texture may be used for a design effect of the lacing as seen through the openings 24 on the outside of the handbag. By suitably tensioning the lacing, the elements 16 may be closely side by side, with their flanges 21 in face to face contact with each other. At the bottom and ends of the handbag the lacing may gradually curve from the eye portions, and lie only partially in the flange openings as shown in Fig. 1; this applies also to the top of the handbag as shown in Fig. 3. In fact, the lacing may lie clear of the flange openings entirely. Yet the horizontal tapes are visible at the ends of the handbag, and the vertical tapes are similarly visible at the bottom of the handbag through the flange openings, thus carrying out the design effect. The vertical tapes also afford a decorative finish at the mouth of the handbag.

The tapes may be of different sizes, constructions and materials. They may consist of textile or woven ribbon or cord, or of twisted yarns or fibers, or of artificial leather or other composition materials or even of plastics. They may be of increased thickness as desired, for instance, by being made of folded or tubular stock, open or pasted flat. To prevent cutting or breaking of the lacing or surface thereof, the eye portions or offsets 23 permit the lacing to follow a suitable curve consistent with its stiffness or resilience and as indicated in Fig. 3, and without exposing the lacing to rubbing, wear or soiling.

The elements 16 are adapted to be made as metal stampings but can also be molded of plastic, in which case a relatively simple mold and a minimum of material can be used because of the construction shown.

The elements 16 also possess considerable resilience because their flanges 21 are interrupted. If desired, their parts may be interconnected by the eye portions 23, but the latter are preferably spaced from the flanges for easier curvature of the lacing, and reenforce the elements 16 especially at the window openings 24 thereof.

In fact, the lacing may be wholly out of contact with the thin edges of the flanges even at the openings 22 thereof to avoid wear.

Flexibility in a handbag of this type is important. Despite the flatwise abutment of the flanges 21, the walls of the handbag often appear to break sharply in different irregular directions. In the instant case any such tendency is smoothed out because the lacing is not connected to the elements 16 at their extreme edges, but inward thereof, and because relatively thick or somewhat stiff lacings may be readily employed.

The assembling of the handbag 10 may be effected in any suitable manner. The lacing of tapes through the offsets 23 is easy to accomplish, because the tapes may be passed straight through.

In Fig. 6 is shown a modified element 25 which may be like that at 16 in all respects except that a flange 26 may be free of any openings such as 22 in order to thus conceal the tapes 15 at the top of the handbag. Such elements 25 may also be

used at the bottom and at the ends of the handbag, but they are not as advantageous as those at 16. They make the lacing of the tapes more difficult because the flange 25 acts as an obstruction, and they reduce the region available for bending or curving the tapes.

It is thus seen that all the advantages of the invention are fully realized and the novel structure produced possesses inherent design character of a distinctive order which is valuable in a lady's handbag.

I claim:

1. A device including a handbag having a bag body having opposed walls interconnected at their ends, a plurality of decorative elements for each wall, and lacing interconnecting the elements and also interconnecting the handbag walls at an end thereof, each element being hollow to form a marginally flanged wall structure open toward the adjacent handbag wall, the flanges nearest to an end of the bag body having slots wholly open at the free edges of the flanges, and eye portions connected to the wall structures and lying in the hollow thereof and in alignment with respective slots, said lacing passing through the eye portions to mount the decorative elements and lying partially, adjustably in the slots whereby the lacing is protected at the said end of the bag body.

2. A device including a handbag having a bag body having opposed walls interconnected at the bottom and ends of the bag body, decorative elements for said walls, each element having a plate and marginal flanges to form a hollow structure, the flanges projecting toward the adjacent walls and being interconnected at the corners of the plate and having slots open at the free edges of the flanges, the slots being located intermediate of said corners, each structure having eye portions in the hollow thereof aligned with adjacent slots, the lacing passing through the eye portions in different directions so as to intersect in each element, the lacing also extending through the slot openings but adjustably lying spaced inward from or partially in those slots which are at the bottom and edges of the bag body, whereby exposure of the lacing beyond the elements is prevented.

3. A handbag having a wall comprising preformed rectangular decorative elements each having a relatively thin wall and a marginal flange on the four sides thereof whereby the elements are adapted to abut each other when strung on lacing, lacing, including tapes crossing each other in each element, means on said side of the walls for slidably engaging the tapes to mount said elements, said flanges having portions providing slots extending to the free edges of the flanges, said slots being so much less in length than the flanges and the tapes being so narrow as to lie freely in said slots, the latter being so wholly open and the said means being so spaced therefrom that the tapes are adjustably movable into and out of the slots, certain of the latter lying at an edge of the edge of said bag wall and others lying spaced from said bag wall, the tapes passing through slots lying spaced from said edge and being curved so as to extend only partially into slots lying at the edge of said bag wall, said means including eye portions integral with the wall of each element and being otherwise separate of said flanges, there being one eye portion for each respective slot opening, whereby the tapes are controlled as aforesaid at each side edge of each element.

4. A handbag according to claim 3 wherein the wall of each element is provided with window openings opposite to the eye portions and in substantially full communication with the interior of the eye portions, with the latter supporting the tapes against the window openings for visibility at each element of tapes extending in different directions.

5. A handbag according to claim 3 wherein said eye portions are spaced from each other to leave therebetween a free space in which the portions of the tapes that cross each other are located.

6. A handbag according to claim 3 wherein the wall of each element is provided with four window openings registering with and having full communication with each eye portion, the latter being spaced from each other so that the crossing portions of the tapes lie therebetween whereby only one tape is visibly held relatively snugly against a window opening by an eye portion.

7. A handbag having a bag body comprising preformed elements each having a wall and flanges marginally connected thereto to form box-like elements, said flanges having slots open at the free edges of the flanges, eye portions connected to the wall in alignment with the centers of the slots and being spaced from adjacent flanges, and tapes strung through the eye portions and adapted to enter the said slots, said tapes extending through eye portions of a series of elements located at an edge of the handbag, the tapes passing around said edge and lying only partially, adjustably in the slots that are nearest said edge and passing wholly through slots that are spaced from said edge.

8. A handbag having a bag body comprising preformed elements each having a wall and flanges marginally connected thereto to form box-like elements, said flanges having slots open at the free edges of the flanges, eye portions connected to the wall in alignment with the centers of the slots and being spaced from adjacent flanges, and tapes strung through the eye portions and adapted to enter the said slots, said eye portions being of sufficient width to afford a broad base for the tapes, said wall having window openings opposite to the eye portions and respectively communicating therewith, and the eye portions being at least as large as the window openings to prevent visibility therethrough if the tapes used be narrower than said openings.

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