United States Patent

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[54] **WALLET OR SIMILAR ARTICLE**
6 Claims, 5 Drawing Figs.

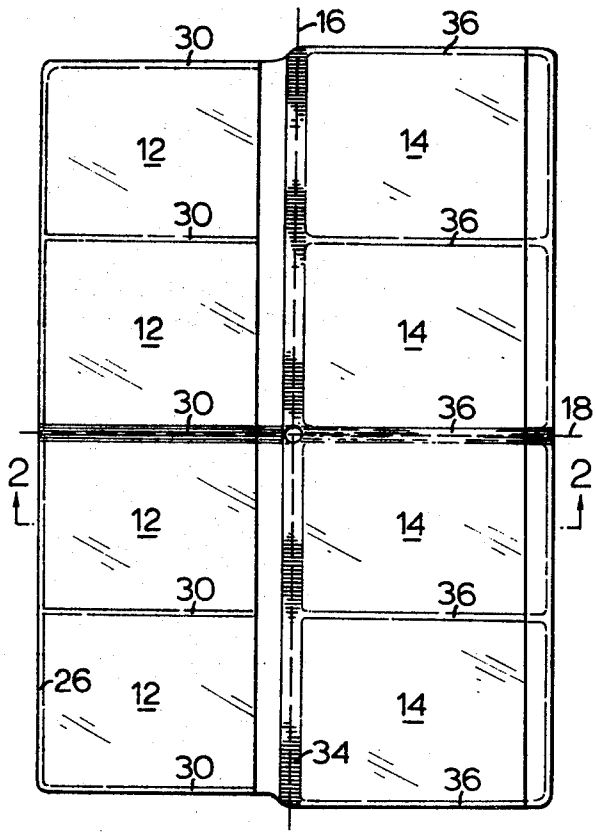
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **150/39**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A45c 11/18**
[50] **Field of Search** 150/39, 34; 206/39

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Primary Examiner—Donald F. Norton
Attorney—Rogers, Bereskin & Parr

ABSTRACT: A wallet of thin flexible material for credit cards, photographs and the like. The wallet is formed from three panels to provide two rows of pockets separated by a longitudinal fold line. A transverse fold line extends across the middle of the wallet between adjacent pockets to allow the wallet to be folded along one of the fold lines and then along the other fold line into a convenient size for carrying in a person's pocket.



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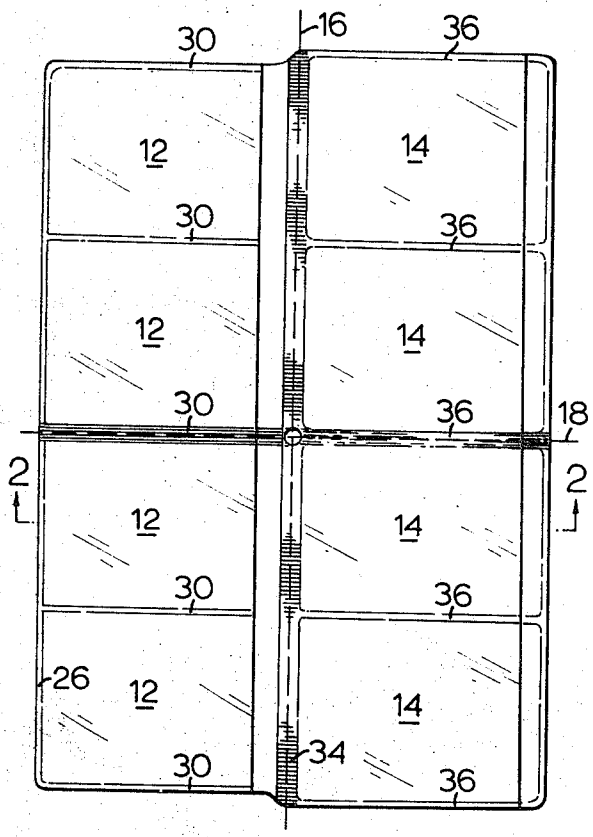


FIG. 1

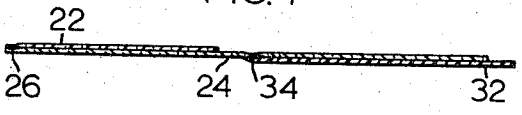


FIG. 2

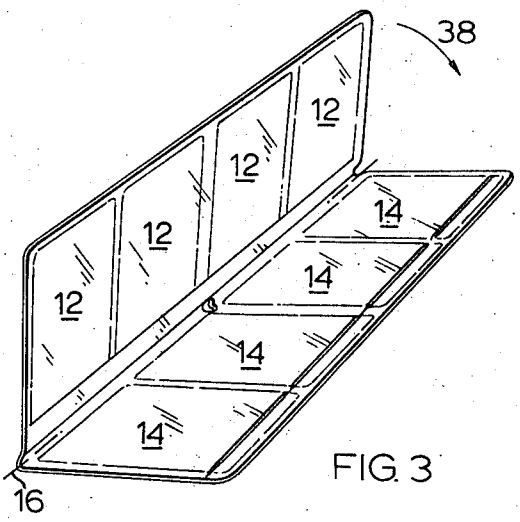


FIG. 3

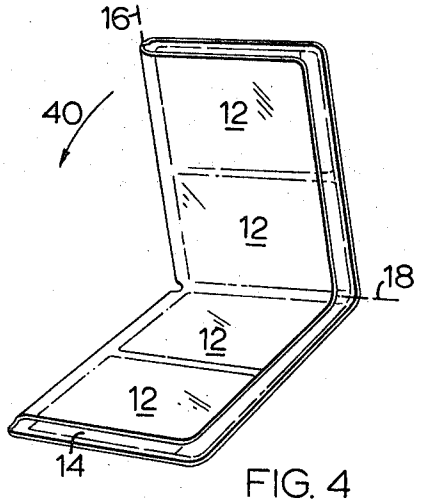


FIG. 4

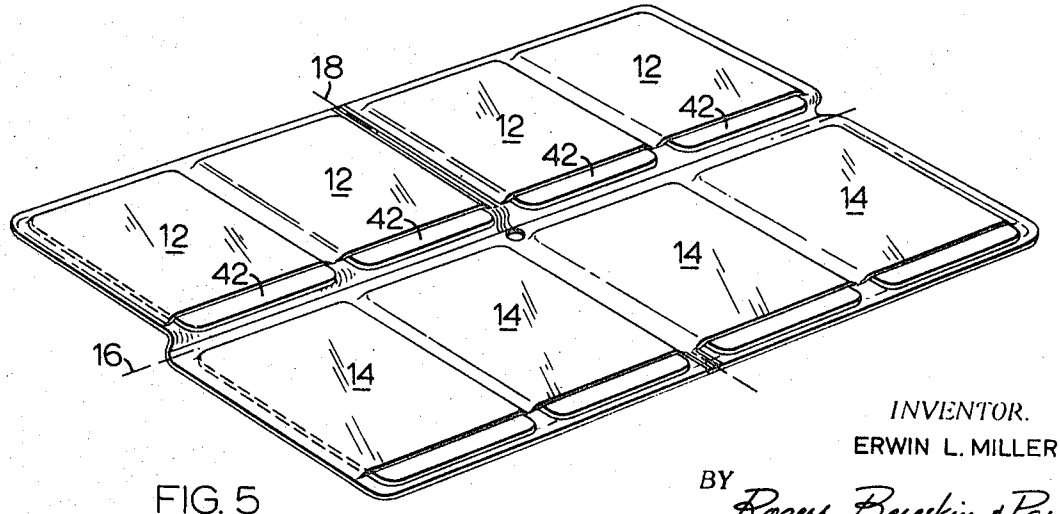


FIG. 5

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WALLET OR SIMILAR ARTICLE

This invention relates to a wallet for containing articles such as credit cards, photographs and the like.

Cards such as identification cards, credit cards, and photographs are commonly carried in wallets or folders. Although there are many different styles of wallets, in general conventional wallets tend to become rather bulky when a large number of cards is to stored.

Objects of the present invention are to provide a wallet that can store a relatively large number of cards without becoming unduly bulky, that is convenient to use, and which is relatively economical to manufacture.

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a wallet is provided with a plurality of pockets arranged side by side in two rows divided by a longitudinal fold line, the number of pockets in each row being a multiple of two. A transverse fold line divides the wallet into two equal parts so that the wallet can be folded about the longitudinal fold line and then about the transverse fold line to permit it to be slipped easily into a pocket. The wallet is then four pockets thick.

In drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 1 is a plan view of an open wallet;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view on line 2–2 of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 3 and 4 are sequence drawings illustrating the folding of a wallet; and

FIG. 5 is a perspective view showing the shape the wallet assumes after it has been in use for some time.

Reference is first made to FIG. 1 which shows a generally rectangular wallet **10** laid out flat. The wallet **10** comprises a first longitudinal row of pockets **12** and a second row of pockets **14**. A longitudinal fold line **16** and a transverse fold line **18** divide the wallet into four parts for folding as described with reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**. The fold lines **16** and **18** meet at a circular cutout **20** which relieves the folding stresses at the intersection of the fold lines **16** and **18**.

Next, reference is made to FIG. **2** which illustrates the construction of the wallet. The pockets **12** are formed from a relatively narrow first panel of transparent plastic **22** and a second panel **24** of transparent plastic which has a width somewhat larger than twice the width of the panel **22**. The panel **22** is heat sealed to the inner or upper side of the wide panel **24** along a common longitudinal outer edge **26** and along a plurality of spaced-apart parallel transverse weld lines **30** which define the pockets **12** (FIG. **1**). A relatively wide central transverse weld line **30'** helps to strengthen the fold line **18**.

The pockets **14** are formed from the transparent second panel **24** and an opaque third panel of plastic **32** welded to the outer or lower side of the second panel **24**. The panels **22** and **32** therefore lie on opposite sides of the panel **24**. The panels **24, 32** are connected by a relatively wide longitudinal weld **34** containing the fold line **16** and a plurality of transverse weld lines **36** similar to the weld lines **30**.

The row of pockets **14** is longer than the row **12** by a predetermined equal amount at each end. The difference in the length of the rows improves the appearance of the folded wallet as will be described. Also, the periphery of the wallet which includes the weld line **26**, the two outer weld lines **30**, and the two outer weld lines **36**, is finished to give a stitched appearance, as is common in plastic goods of this sort.

Reference is now made to FIG. **3** which shows the wallet **10** folded about its longitudinal fold line **16**. The wallet is closed by folding in the direction of arrow **38** until the pockets **12** rest on the pockets **14**. The wallet is then folded about the transverse fold line **18** as indicated in FIG. **4** in the direction of the arrow **40** until the pockets **12** which are above the transverse fold line **18** rest on the pockets **12** which are below the fold line **18**. The folded wallet now has a length and width substantially equal to half the length and width of the open wallet, and a thickness which includes four pockets and their contents. The opaque panel **32** is exposed on both sides of the folded wallet, and also along the fold line **18** and at the ends of the

wallet because the opaque panel **32** is longer than the transparent panel **22** so that it hides the transparent material. The opaque panel **32** can be made of imitation leather or the like so that the folded wallet gives the impression of a leather wallet, or else any other decorative vinyl material or vinyl backed material could be used, as desired.

Cards **42** placed back to back in the pockets **12** can be viewed from both sides when the wallet is open, whereas cards placed in the pockets **14** can be viewed from the top only. However, if required, the wallet can be made entirely from transparent material to permit a larger number of cards to be exposed to view.

Reference is now made to FIG. **5** which illustrates the form of the wallet in use. Because the fold line **16** (FIG. **1**) is reinforced by the relatively wide weld **34**, the wallet tends to open into the shape shown so that there is an S-shaped fold between the rows of pockets. The S-shaped fold causes the ends of the cards **42** to stand up clear of the wallet thereby affording easy removal when required. This is particularly useful for credit cards which usually must be taken out of the wallet whenever they are used.

The wallet can be made larger by increasing the number of pockets in each row provided that the final number of pockets is a multiple of two to allow folding. Also the number of rows of pockets can be increased, in which case broad longitudinal weld lines are provided between the rows to allow the wallet to be folded. To close the wallet, it is folded along the longitudinal fold lines until it is one row wide and the the final fold is made along the transverse fold line.

I claim:

1. A wallet of thin flexible material for cards or the like comprising: generally rectangular first, second and third panels of approximately the same length, said first and third panels having substantially the same width, the width of said second panel being substantially equal to the sum of the widths of said first and third panels; a longitudinal fold line formed at about the middle of said second panel, said first panel being attached to said second panel along a plurality of parallel lines to form a row of pockets on one side of said fold line, and said third panel being attached to said second panel along a plurality of parallel lines to form a second row of pockets on the other side of said fold line; and a transverse fold line which approximately bisects said first, second and third panels, whereby said wallet can be folded on one of said fold lines and then folded on the other of said fold lines, said fold lines being positioned between adjacent pockets so that no pocket is deformed when said wallet is folded.

2. A wallet is claimed in claim **1** wherein each of said rows contains the same number of pockets, and the number of pockets in each row is a multiple of two.

3. A wallet as claimed in claim **2** wherein said first panel overlies said second panel and said second panel overlies said third panel when said wallet is open.

4. A wallet as claimed in claim **3** wherein said first and second panels are transparent and said third panel is opaque, said third panel having a width slightly greater than half the width of said wallet so that at least a portion of said third panel extends beyond said longitudinal fold line, and wherein said second row is slightly longer than said first row, so that when said wallet is folded said opaque third panel conceals said transparent first and second panels.

5. A wallet as claimed in claim **4** wherein said fold lines intersect at a small hole formed in said second and third panels.

6. A generally rectangular wallet of thin flexible material for cards or the like, said wallet having two parallel longitudinal edges and two parallel transverse edges, a longitudinal fold line generally parallel to the longitudinal edges of said wallet, and a transverse fold line generally parallel to the transverse edges of said wallet, said transverse fold line meeting said longitudinal fold line at a small hole formed in said wallet, a first row of pockets formed between one of said longitudinal edges and one side of said longitudinal fold line, said pockets being closed along three sides and open along a fourth side, said

fourth side being pr parallel to and adjacent said longitudinal fold line; a second row of pockets formed between the other of said longitudinal edges and the other side of said longitudinal fold line, said pockets being closed along three sides and open along a fourth side, said fourth side being parallel to and adjacent said other of said longitudinal edges.

5. A wallet as claimed in claim 4 wherein said fold lines intersect at a small hole formed in said second and third panels.

6. A generally rectangular wallet of thin flexible material for cards or the like, said wallet having two parallel longitudinal edges and two parallel transverse edges, a longitudinal fold line generally parallel to the longitudinal edges of said wallet, and a transverse fold line generally parallel to the transverse edges of said wallet, said transvers fold line meeting said longitudinal fold line at a small hole formed in said wallet, a first row of pockets formed between one of said longitudinal edges and one side of said longitudinal fold line, said pockets being closed along three sides and open along a fourth side, said fourth side being parallel to and adjacent said longitudinal fold line; a second row of pockets formed between the other of said longitudinal edges and the other side of said longitudinal fold line, said pockets being closed along three sides and open along a fourth side, said fourth side being parallel to and adjacent said other of said longitudinal edges.