

Sept. 21, 1954

A. L. WILSON
HANDBAG ILLUMINATOR
Filed Feb. 16, 1953

2,689,907

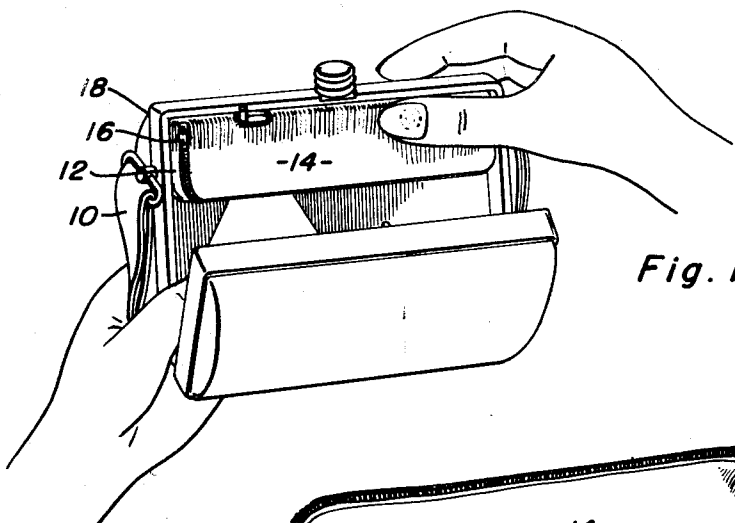


Fig. 1

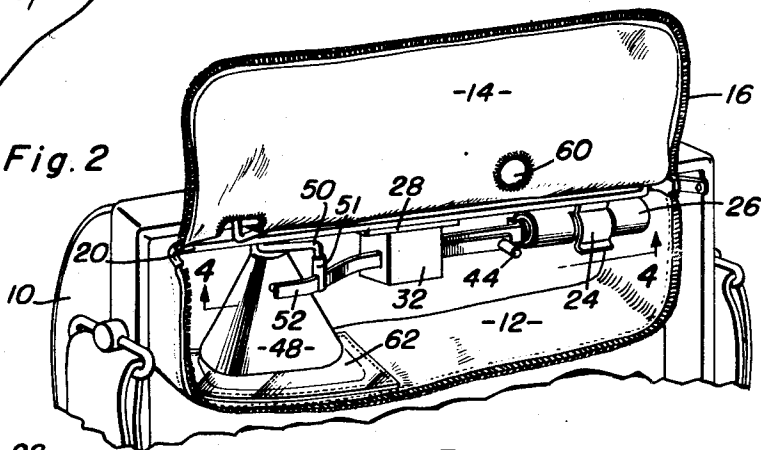


Fig. 2

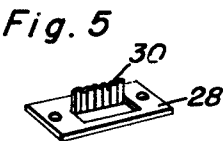


Fig. 5

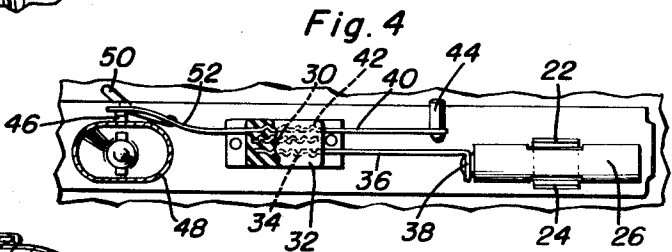


Fig. 4

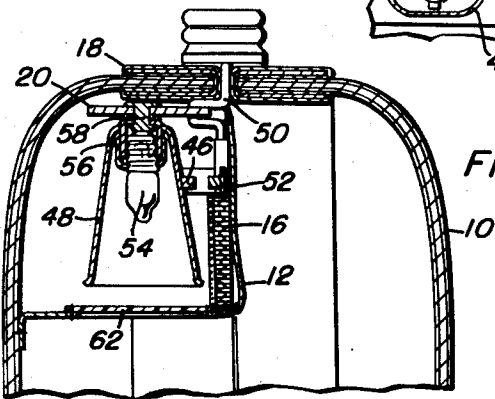


Fig. 3

Arthur L. Wilson
INVENTOR.

BY *Oliver A. O'Brien*
and *Harvey B. Jackson*
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,689,907

HANDBAG ILLUMINATOR

Arthur L. Wilson, Chicago, Ill.

Application February 16, 1953, Serial No. 337,010

1 Claim. (Cl. 240—6.45)

1

This invention relates to an article of women's apparel and more particularly to a handbag or pocketbook having illuminating means incorporated therein.

The primary object of this invention resides in the provision of illuminating means for a lady's handbag or pocketbook which permits the feminine user to readily inspect the contents of her pocketbook as may be necessary when the lady is at the theater or cinema, night club, restaurant, or at any other place there is little or no adequate illumination for such a purpose.

A further object of the invention is to provide a handbag illuminator having a manually operated switch for selectively exciting the illuminating means while there is also provided a safety switch causing the operative electrical circuits to be broken as soon as the handbag is closed.

The construction of this invention features a mounting bar on which the various components of this invention are secured. The mounting bar is also a conductor of current which eliminates the use of exterior wires. Secured to the mounting bar is a switch block supporting plate which has a depending flange embedded in the switch block and which supports the switch block. The switch block carries the resilient switch member which is provided with free ends to be manually operated and to be operated by the closure of the handbag.

Still further objects of the invention reside in the provision of a handbag illuminator that is strong and durable, simple in construction and manufacture, capable of being readily incorporated in combination with various lady's handbags, purses, pocketbooks, while being equally adaptable for use on luggage, suitcases, and other various similar items.

These, together with the various ancillary objects and features of the invention which will become apparent as the following description proceeds, are attained by this handbag illuminator, a preferred embodiment of which has been illustrated in the accompanying drawings, by way of example only, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the handbag illuminator within a lady's purse and in operative use;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the handbag illuminator with the casing in an open position in order that the construction of the illuminating means may be readily observed;

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view of the handbag illuminator showing in partic-

2

ular the construction of the mounting plate and reflector;

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view as taken along the plane of line 4—4 in Figure 2; and,

Figure 5 is a perspective of the switch block mounting plate comprising one of the elements of the invention.

With continuing reference to the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals designate similar parts throughout the various views, reference numeral 10 generally designates a lady's handbag or pocketbook in which the illuminating means are adapted to be used in combination. This illuminating means includes a casing 12 of a flexible material such as plastic or cloth which is provided with a cover 14 having a zipper closure as at 16. Depending from the metallic framework 18 of the handbag 10 is an elongated mounting bar 20. A pair of contact clamps 22 and 24 depend from the mounting bar 20 and embrace a battery 26, the insulative cardboard about the battery 26 having been removed in order that the clamp contacts 22 and 24 may embrace the battery and obtain satisfactory operative electrical contact therewith.

Carried by the mounting bar 20 is a switch block securing plate 28. The switch block securing plate 28 includes a flange 30 which is provided with suitable corrugations or other irregular configuration so as to readily lockingly engage a switch block 32 which is molded thereabout. Thus, the flange 30 is embedded in the switch block 32 which also has embedded therein as at 34 a conductor 36 having corrugations at one end which are embedded in the block 32 and having a contact 38 adapted to engage the contact terminal of the battery 26. A switch leaf 40 having a central portion as at 42 provided with corrugations and embedded in the switch block 32 is provided. The switch leaf 40 has a contact as at 44 for manual actuation and contact with the conductor 36. The other end of the switch leaf is adapted to engage a contact 46 on the reflector 48. An angulated rod 50 is secured by means of an insulative finger 51 to the end 52 of the spring leaf 40 and is adapted to disengage the end 52 from the contact 46 when the handbag 10 is closed because the frame members 18 will engage the rod 50 to urge the spring end 52 out of engagement with the contact 46. A light bulb 54 is provided and is adapted to be secured within the receptacle 56. The receptacle 56 having its ground or negative terminal attached to the mounting bar 20 and being adapted to retain either a bayonet

3

type bulb 54 or an Edison base bulb. The reflector 48 is in electrical contact with the positive terminal of the receptacle 56. The receptacle 56 includes a contact 58 which is in electrical contact with the mounting bar 20. Further, the receptacle 56 holds the threads of a screw or Edison type bulb by angular spring clips which engage within the thread grooves.

In operation with the zipper closed as is shown in Figure 1 and with the contact 44 actuated through the aperture 60 in the cover 14 the lamp will be illuminated and shine through the transparent plastic window as at 62 in the base of the casing 12. When the handbag is shut the rod 50 will cause disengagement of the end 52 from the reflector 48 thus preventing the lamp from being actuated even though the contents of the handbag might engage the contact 44. This enhances the life of the battery.

It is to be noted that the contact 38 may be secured to the center terminal of the battery 26 by soldering or by any suitable spring type clamp which lockingly holds the contact 38 in electrical engagement with the center terminal of the battery 26.

Since from the foregoing, the construction and advantages of this handbag illuminator are readily apparent, further description is believed to be unnecessary.

However, since numerous modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not intended to limit the invention to the precise

4

embodiment shown and described, but all suitable modifications and equivalents may be readily resorted to.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

A handbag illuminator comprising an elongated mounting bar, a contact clamp secured to said bar, a battery carried by said clamp, a switch block securing plate secured to said bar, an insulative switch block carried by said securing plate, a conductive reflector carried by said mounting bar, a conductor carried by said switch block resiliently engaging said battery, a switch leaf centrally embedded in said switch block and having two free ends, a contact at one of said free ends for contacting said conductor upon manual actuation, another contact at the other of said free ends for contacting said reflector upon handbag opening actuation, said switch block securing plate including a flange embedded in said switch block, and an angulated rod secured to said switch leaf for disengaging said other contact from said reflector upon closing of the handbag.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,742,958	Kaufman	Jan. 7, 1930
2,278,866	Elba	Apr. 7, 1942
2,300,108	Curle	Oct. 27, 1942
2,534,945	Booth	Dec. 19, 1950