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THEFT-PROOF BILLFOLD
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2,369,597

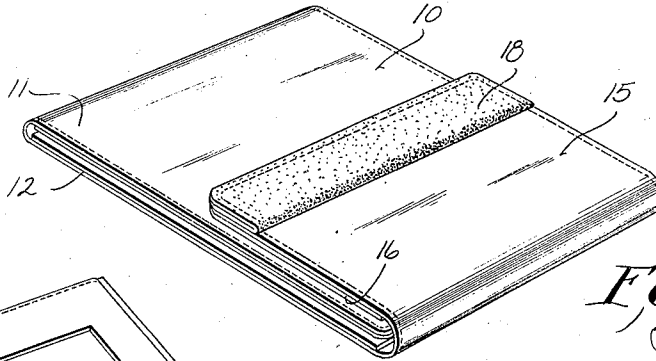


Fig. 1.

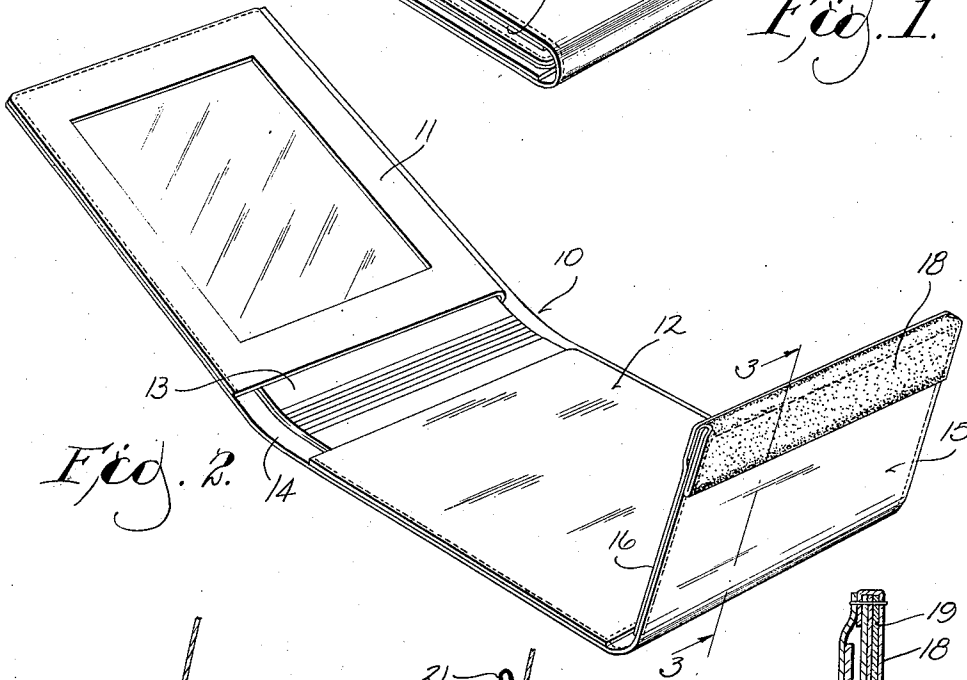


Fig. 2.

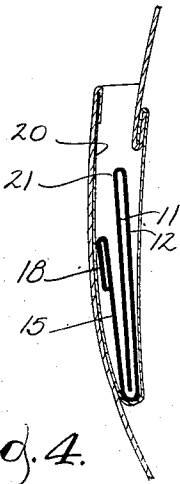


Fig. 4.

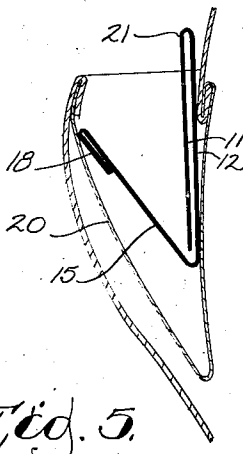


Fig. 5.

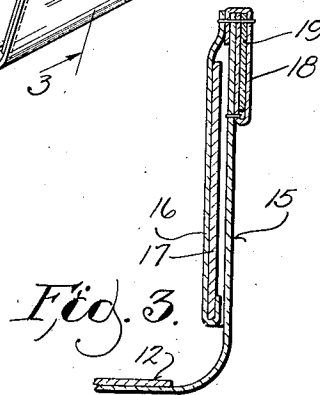


Fig. 3.

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THEFTPROOF BILLFOLD

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5 Claims. (Cl. 150-47)

The object of my invention is to provide a pocketbook or billfold construction which will physically resist withdrawal from the pocket of the wearer and will thus give warning to the wearer when a pickpocket or other unauthorized person attempts to pilfer.

More particularly stated, it is the object of my invention to provide a "fold" of a billfold or pocketbook so shaped and connected to the main structure of the device that upon attempted withdrawal from the pocket of the wearer the device will increase its lateral dimensions and resist withdrawal.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective of my improved theft-proof billfold with all of the parts in folded relation.

Fig. 2 is a perspective of my open billfold.

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a vertical section through a pocket of a wearer of my billfold and shows my theft-proof billfold in somewhat diagrammatic outline.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but showing my theft-proof billfold as it would be disposed when partially withdrawn from the pocket by an unauthorized person.

Like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

The ordinary billfold having the usual characteristics of smooth leather and rounded corners lends itself readily to stealthy manipulation by a pickpocket. The pickpocket's stealthy fingers may reach into the pocket of the owner of the billfold and, in grasping the billfold, may confine all of the plies or folded elements of the billfold into one compact package which slips easily out of the pocket. My invention on the other hand relates not only to the provision of special friction parts for a billfold but also to the disposition of such parts in special relationship to elements of the billfold which may not be readily grasped by the stealthy fingers of the pickpocket, and which will become an impediment to stealthy release of the billfold from the wearer's pocket.

As shown in the drawing, my billfold 10 includes the usual principal foldable elements 11 and 12 with any suitable device, such as the insert 13, there forming a pocket for paper money and the entire "fold" being hingedly bendable at 14. These elements 11, 12, and 13 are customarily made of leather or leather-like material from the point of view of pliability, bendability, and wearing quality. In conjunction with one

15 which is relatively stiff and which has dimensions such that when the billfold is folded, as shown in Fig. 1, the extension 15 is shorter than the folded length of the billfold.

5 Extension 15 may be made of any suitable material complementary to the elements 11-12, but it is of importance that the extension be stiff, and I, therefore, usually form my extension 15 of the same leather piece out of which the principal 10 folding parts of the billfold are made. I also provide a lining 16 for the inside surface of the extension 15. I make this lining of leather or other suitable material, and to provide the necessary stiffness, I insert a fiber ply 17 under the 15 lining 16.

Marginally of the extension 15, at 18, I provide a sueded band as a friction material to bear against the pocket of the wearer. Obviously, this band 18 may be made of other material than 20 suede leather since the fundamental purpose is that of providing the friction just referred to. To make a long-lived construction, I also stiffen the band 18 by means of an inserted stiff fiber 19, as shown most clearly in Fig. 3.

25 Figs. 4 and 5 show somewhat diagrammatically the disposition of my billfold in a pocket 20 of a wearer. Thus, when my billfold is inserted in the pocket of the wearer, as indicated in Fig. 4, the extension 15 is of lesser "height" 30 than the billfold in general, and when the stealthy fingers of the pickpocket are inserted in the pocket of the wearer to grasp the billfold, the natural grasping point at 21 (Figs. 4 and 5) is so disposed that there is no tendency for the 35 pickpocket's fingers to grasp the extension 15. As the billfold is pulled upwardly, as shown in Fig. 5, the friction material at 18 tends to resist outward movement, and immediately, the extension 40 assumes an outstanding position from the billfold 10 so as to virtually block further movement. Obviously, by the time the billfold has assumed position shown in Fig. 5, further stealthy retraction is impossible, and even if the attention 45 of the wearer has not yet been called to the pilfering, the pickpocket must abandon his efforts.

It will be noted that because of the way the extension is hingedly disposed to hold the billfold 50 in closed position, any bulking of contents in the billfold will tend to thrust the band 18 away from the billfold and increase the frictional resistance of the extension against the pocket of the wearer, thus emphasizing the resistance of the billfold 55 to any retracting movement unless the fingers of

the owner hold the extension flat against the folded billfold.

I claim:

1. In a billfold, the combination with a backing ply extending continuously the length of the billfold, and at least one receptacle forming ply, of a longitudinal extension of the backing ply having a flexible portion at the end of the billfold to comprise a transverse hinge upon which said extension is pivotally movable to and from a position flat against a face of the billfold, means stiffening a substantial area of said extension beyond said flexible portion whereby said stiffened area is movable unitarily as a lever upon said hinge, and pocket engaging means substantially at the free end of said extension and exposed toward the face of the extension which is outermost in said position for engaging the inside of a pocket into which said billfold is inserted with said hinge down, thereby tending to anchor the free end of said extension to the pocket and establish a fulcrum for such end, whereby the said stiffened area of said extension is caused by pocket engagement to swing bodily outwardly from the billfold about said hinge during any billfold movement of withdrawal to afford increasing resistance to withdrawal by deforming the pocket unless manually held to the face of the billfold.

2. The billfold of claim 1 in which the pocket-engaging means comprises a band of rough surfaced material extending transversely at the free end of the extension and provided with an internal pad means whereby it projects substantially from the face of the extension for pocket engagement.

3. The combination with a billfold, of a flap constituting an extension from the end of the billfold, said flap comprising a relatively rigid lever member having a flexible web connecting it with the end of the billfold for hinged movement to and from a position flat against the face of the billfold, said lever member being approximately the width of the billfold and materially shorter than the billfold and being provided at its free end remote from said web with a band of friction material extending across said free end and adapted for engagement with a pocket in which the billfold is carried with said flexible web down, said band being adapted by frictional engagement with said pocket to fulcrum internally against said pocket whereby to afford increasing resistance to withdrawal of the billfold

by deforming the pocket unless manually held to the face of the billfold.

4. The combination with a flat container comprising a portion adapted to receive paper, of a flap comprising a relatively rigid lever member hingedly connected at one end to said portion for pivotal movement to and from a position flat against a face of the said portion of the container, said lever member being materially shorter than the said portion of the container and terminating intermediate the ends thereof whereby the contents of said portion will tend to press the free end of said lever member outwardly, said lever member being provided at such free end with friction material exposed outwardly from said face and adapted for engagement with the inner surface of a pocket in which the container is carried with said free end of said lever member projecting in the direction of withdrawal, said friction material being adapted for engagement with said pocket to cause said lever member to fulcrum internally against the pocket to increase its angularity respecting the container to afford increasing resistance to withdraw the container from the pocket by deforming the pocket unless such lever member is held to the container during such withdrawal.

5. The combination with a billfold having a transversely foldable currency receiving portion, of a flap in hinged connection with one end of said portion and normally folding across the other end of said portion, said flap being materially shorter than the billfold and having a free end portion terminating substantially midway of the folded currency receiving portion of the billfold, means rendering said flap substantially rigid to constitute a lever, said flap having at its said free end a band of friction material outwardly exposed and adapted for engagement with the pocket in which the folded billfold is carried with said free end of said lever member projecting in the direction of withdrawal, the contents of the folded billfold being adapted to force such free end toward the pocket and the frictional engagement of such material with said pocket being adapted to establish a fulcrum for the free end of the flap upon which it will pivot outwardly from the billfold to afford increasing resistance to withdrawal of the billfold from the pocket unless such flap is manually held to the face of the billfold to disengage said friction material from the pocket.

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