

Nov. 18, 1947.

E. L. EDWARDS

2,431,030

SEMI-SELF-CLOSING HANDBAG

Filed Feb. 9, 1945

Fig. 1.

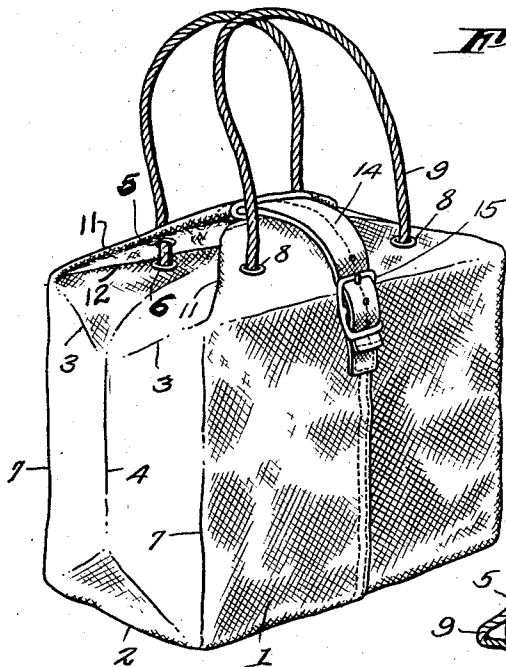


Fig. 2.

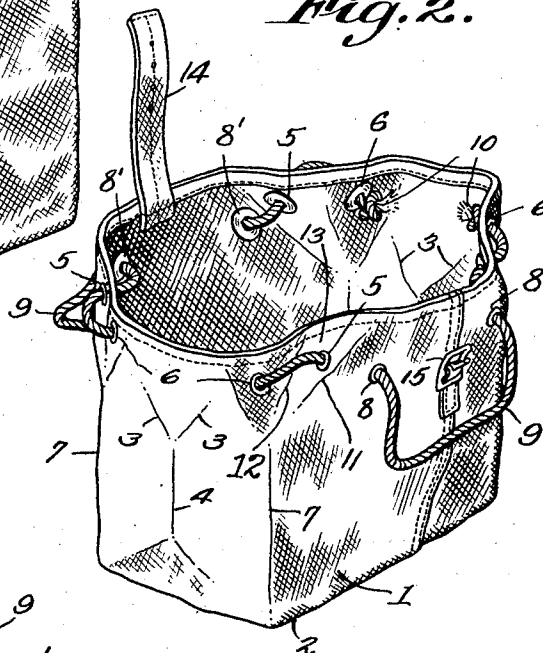
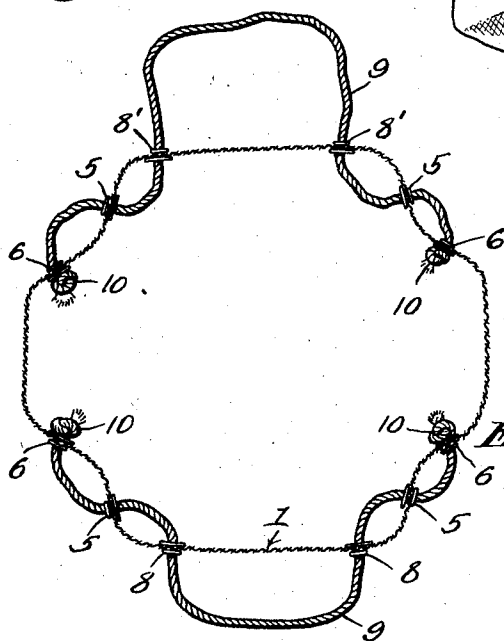


Fig. 3.



Emmett L. Edwards

INVENTOR.

BY *Chambers*
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,431,030

SEMI-SELF-CLOSING HANDBAG

Emmett Lee Edwards, Washington, D. C.

Application February 9, 1945, Serial No. 577,037

1 Claim. (Cl. 150—1.7)

1

This invention relates to handbags and while a handbag constructed in accordance with the invention is designed primarily to be made of a strong fabric, it is to be understood that it could be made of other materials such as leather.

It is an object of the invention to provide a hand bag having flexible handles connected thereto in a new and novel manner whereby when the bag is picked up by means of the handles, the top thereof will form a diamond fold which will completely close the bag, any load which may be contained within the bag serving to increase the tightness of the closure as long as the bag is being carried.

A further object is to provide a handbag which is cheap to manufacture and will not readily get out of order.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claim, it being understood that changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of the invention as claimed.

In the accompanying drawings the preferred form of the invention has been shown.

In said drawing

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bag closed.

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the bag open.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal horizontal sectional view taken through the handbag on a plane parallel to, and immediately below, the edge of the top opening thereof, the bag being shown in open position.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference 1 designates a handbag formed of canvas, duck, soft leather, or any other suitable strong material which will fold readily. This bag is formed with a rectangular bottom 2 made up of a diamond fold such as disclosed, for example, in my co-pending application filed March 28, 1944, Serial No. 528,466.

The bag is further formed with a rectangular top opening of like dimensions with, and opposing, the rectangular bottom 2, and with rectangular sides and ends, the whole being thus given a substantially rectangular parallelepiped configuration. It is understood, of course, that the handbag being of readily foldable material, the parallelepiped configuration in which it is formed will be affected somewhat by the weight of the contents carried thereby, or by the attachment of handles to the bag. This is ap-

2

parent from Figures 2 and 3, from which it is seen that the connection of the handles distorts somewhat the rectangular outline originally and normally carried by the top opening.

The bag can be of any desired proportions and the upper portion of the bag is provided at the sides thereof with upwardly diverging creases 3 to indicate the lines on which the bag is to be folded when closed. A pair of these creases is located at each side of the bag as indicated, for example, in Fig. 2. Located between the upper portions of the creases of each pair and at opposite sides of the center line 4 of each side of the bag are two pairs of openings for grommets arranged in a row, the grommets of each pair being indicated at 5 and 6. The grommets of these two pairs are at the same distance from the top edge of the bag but are at opposite sides of the line of the corner fold 7. Formed in the front end of the bag is another row comprising a pair of grommets 8, which row is located at a greater distance from the top edge of the bag than is the row of grommets 5 and 6. The grommets 8 are positioned between the grommets 5 adjacent to the front of the bag. A similar arrangement of grommets 8' is provided at the back end of the bag.

Two flexible handles 9 are used in connection with the bag. Each of these can be formed of a strong cord, thong or other suitable flexible material capable of sliding freely within the grommets. Each handle is threaded into the bag through the grommets 8 or 8' at that end of the bag where the handle is located. Both end portions of the handle are then extended within the bag from the grommets 8 outwardly through the grommets 5, thence along the outside of the bag and inwardly through the grommets 6 where the ends of the handle are held against withdrawal from the grommets by knots 10 or other enlargements.

When the bag is pulled open the flexible handles are pulled lengthwise within the grommets so as not to interfere with the opening of the bag. After the bag has been partly or entirely filled, the intermediate portions of the flexible elements or handles 9 are pulled away from each other. This will cause the end portions of the handles to be placed under tension and when the handles are swung upwardly toward each other the weight of the bag and its contents will cause the bag to fold along the diverging lines 3 and upwardly along diverging creases 11 and 12 extending from each of the corner creases 7. These diverging creases divide the adjacent portions of the bag

3

into triangular areas. The weight of the bag will cause the areas 13 to swing downwardly onto the end portions of the bag, thereby producing a substantially rectangular diamond fold. The several thicknesses will be held tightly together because the grommets engaged by each end portion of the handle will be brought into close relationship one above the other.

Supplemental fastening means such as a strap 14 and buckle 15 could be employed.

Obviously the bag can be proportioned for use as a shopping bag or as a hand bag and in larger sizes could be used by service men as duffel-bags and containers for other purposes. An important characteristic is the fact that when the bag is carried by means of the handles it will close under the weight of the bag and will be maintained tightly closed.

It is to be understood that if desired the grommets 6 can be dispensed with and instead of forming the handles with enlarged or knotted ends, they can be attached directly to the bag at the points where the grommets 6 ordinarily would be located. This is such an obvious modification that illustration thereof is not deemed necessary.

What is claimed is:

A handbag of flexible and creasable material arranged to provide a handbag of rectangular parallelepiped configuration, having a rectangular top opening, a rectangular bottom, and corner fold lines extending between the opposed corners of the bottom and the top opening, the upper portion of each of the opposed sides of the handbag being provided with a pair of crease lines diverging upwardly from a line drawn longitudinally through the center of the sides, the handbag having two pairs of openings in the upper portion of each side, said pairs being arranged in a row parallel to, and spaced from, the edge of

4

the top opening of the handbag, the openings of said pairs being equidistant from the edge, each of said pairs of openings being disposed between the upper portions of each pair of crease lines, and at opposite sides of said longitudinally-drawn center line, the openings of each pair of openings being disposed on opposite sides of the corner fold lines, the upper portions of the opposed ends of the handbag each having a pair of openings arranged in a row parallel to, and spaced from, the edge of the top opening, the openings in the ends being spaced further from the edge of the top opening than the first named openings, opposed flexible handles on the handbag, each handle having its intermediate portion positioned exteriorly of the handbag, each end portion of each handle being extended into one of the last named pairs of openings, out of the nearest opening of the adjacent pair of first named openings, and into the other opening of said adjacent pair of first named openings, and enlargement means on the ends of the handle for securing the same against withdrawal from the last specified opening.

EMMETT LEE EDWARDS.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
657,047	Wagnitz	Aug. 28, 1900
774,584	Harms	Nov. 8, 1904
924,681	Ludischer	June 15, 1909

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
496,156	Great Britain	Nov. 25, 1938
230,182	Great Britain	Mar. 6, 1925