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(54) **SELECTABLY CONFIGURED CONCEALED WEAPONS CASE**

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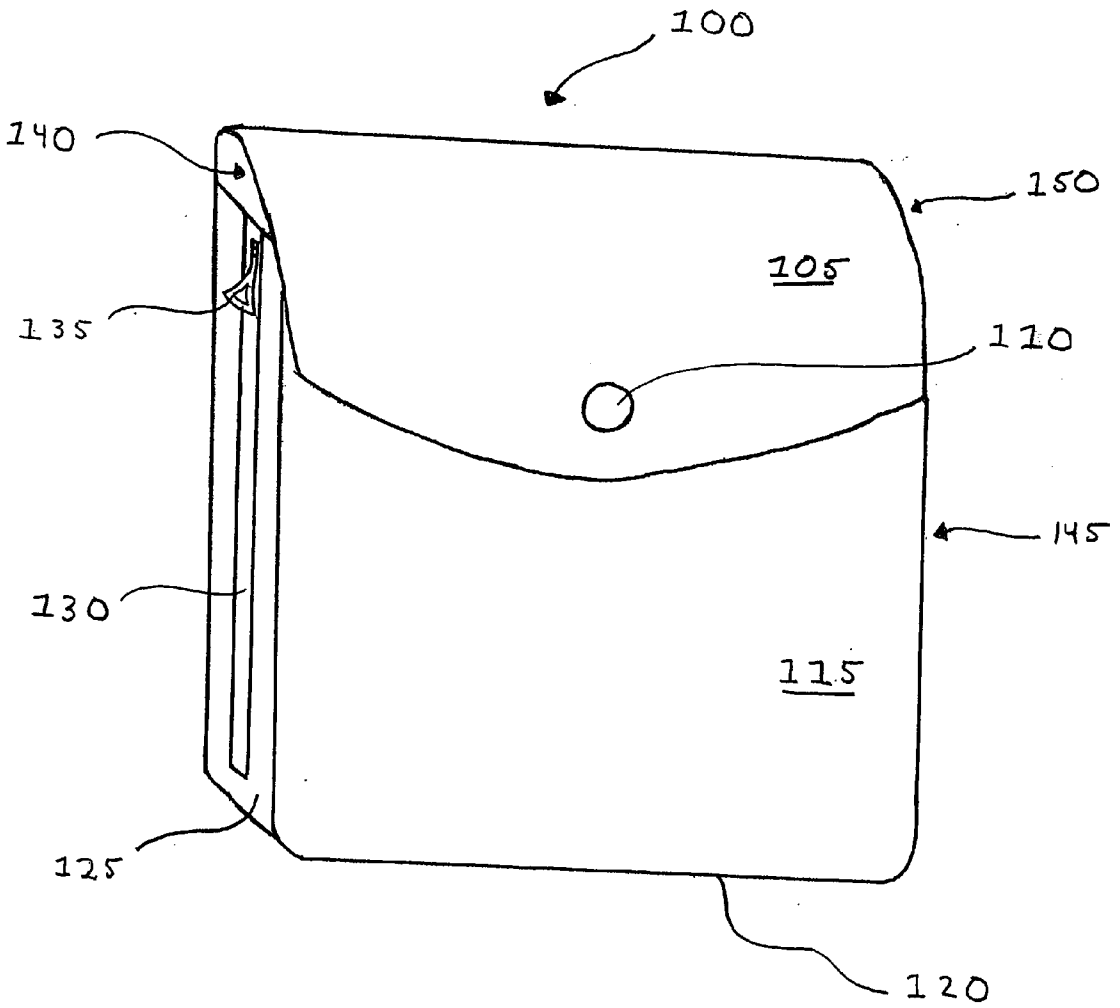
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A weapons case for carrying a concealed weapon. The weapons case includes a closure flap, one or more access panels, an ammunition holder, and a weapon stabilizer. Each access panel includes a first sub-panel, a second sub-panel, and a sub-panel fastener configured to selectively connect to each of the sub-panels and further configured to transition between an open position and a closed position. When the sub-panel fastener is in the open position, the contents of the weapons case are accessible and visible. When the sub-panel fastener is in the closed position, the contents of the weapons case are inaccessible and not visible.



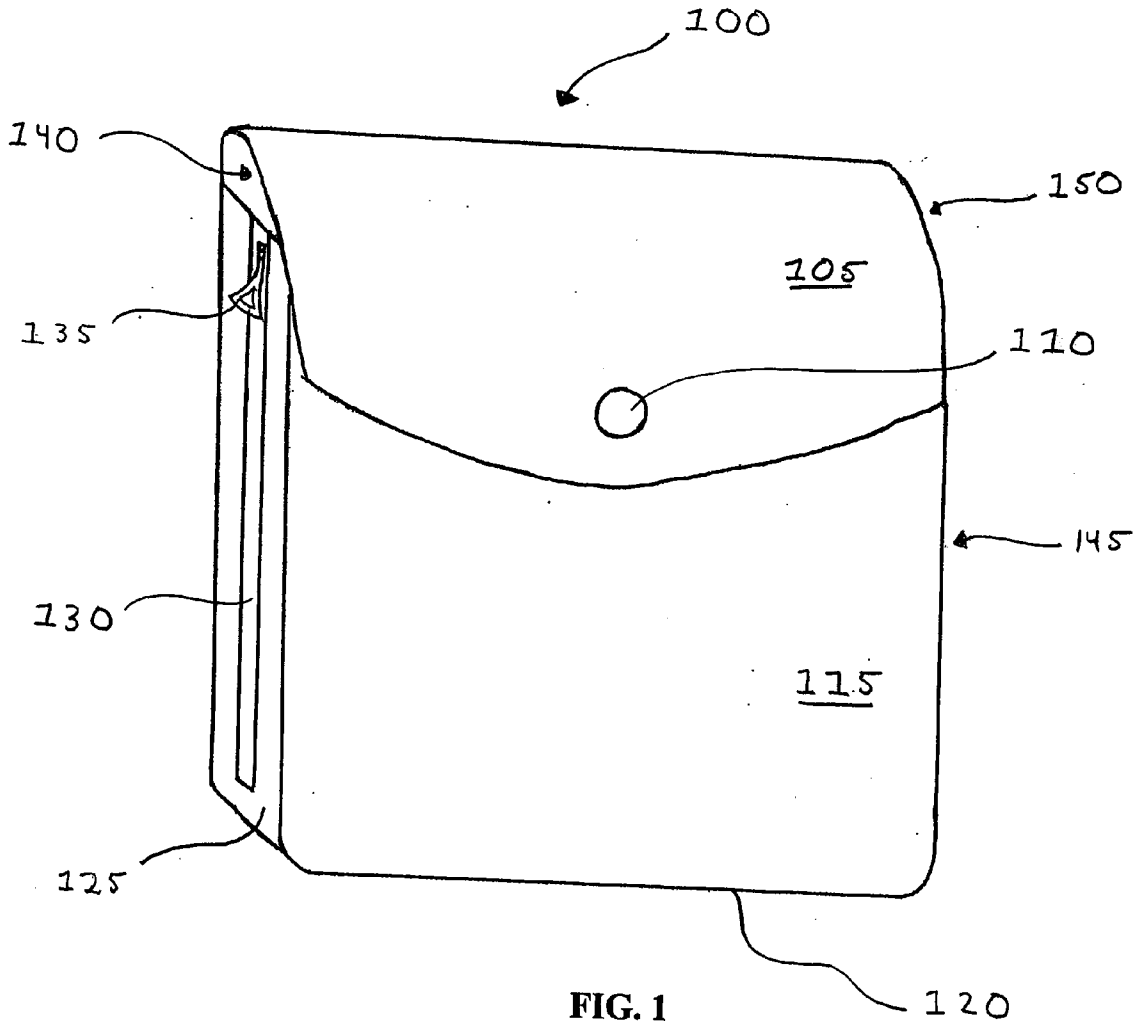


FIG. 1

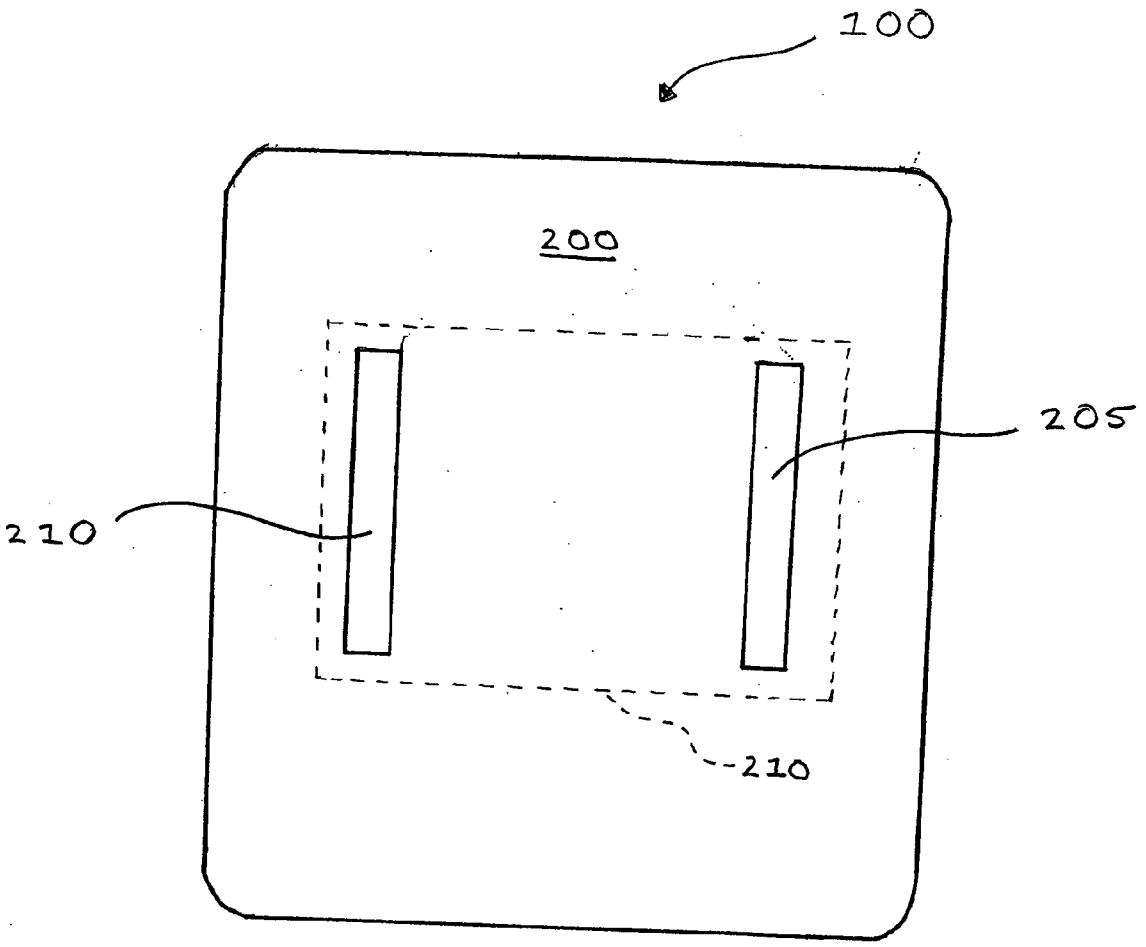


FIG. 2

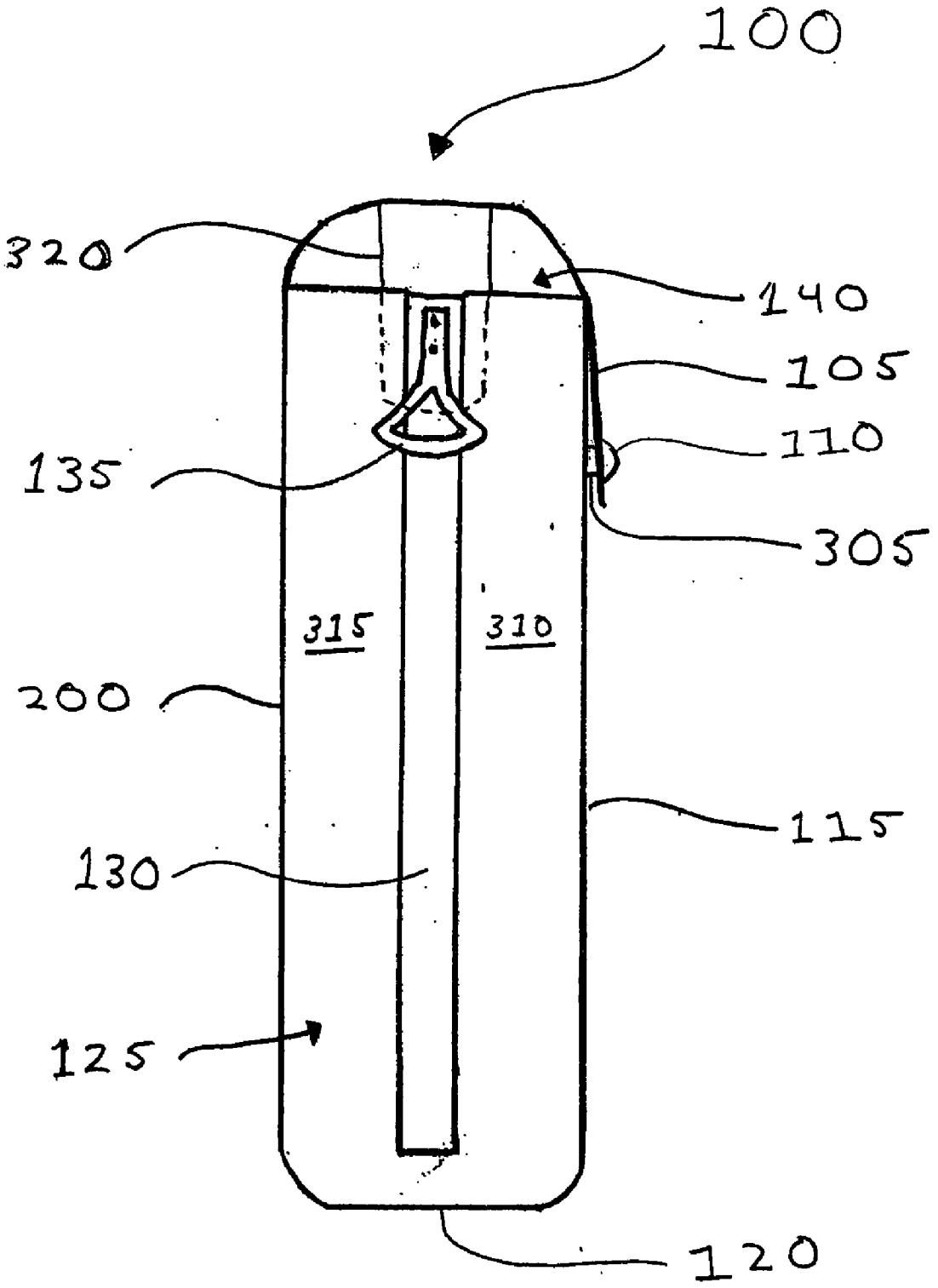


FIG. 3

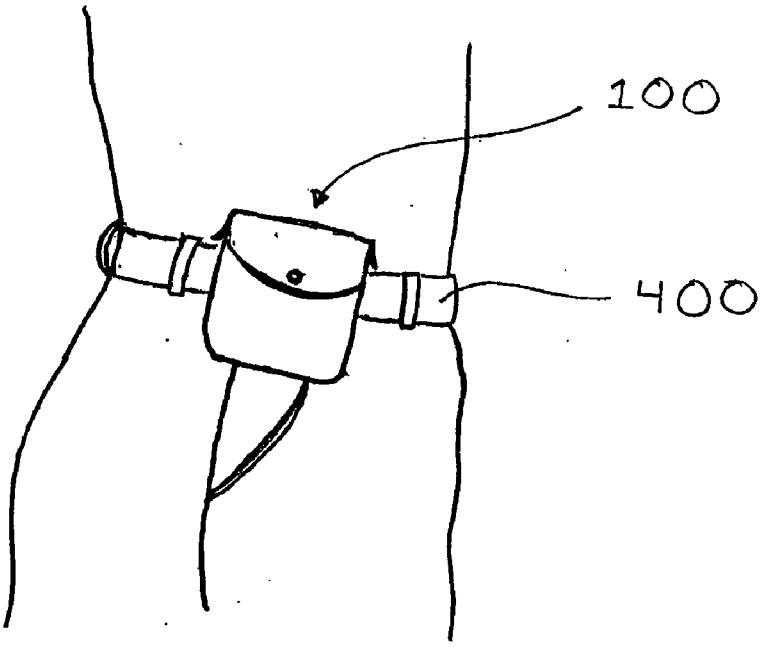


FIG. 4

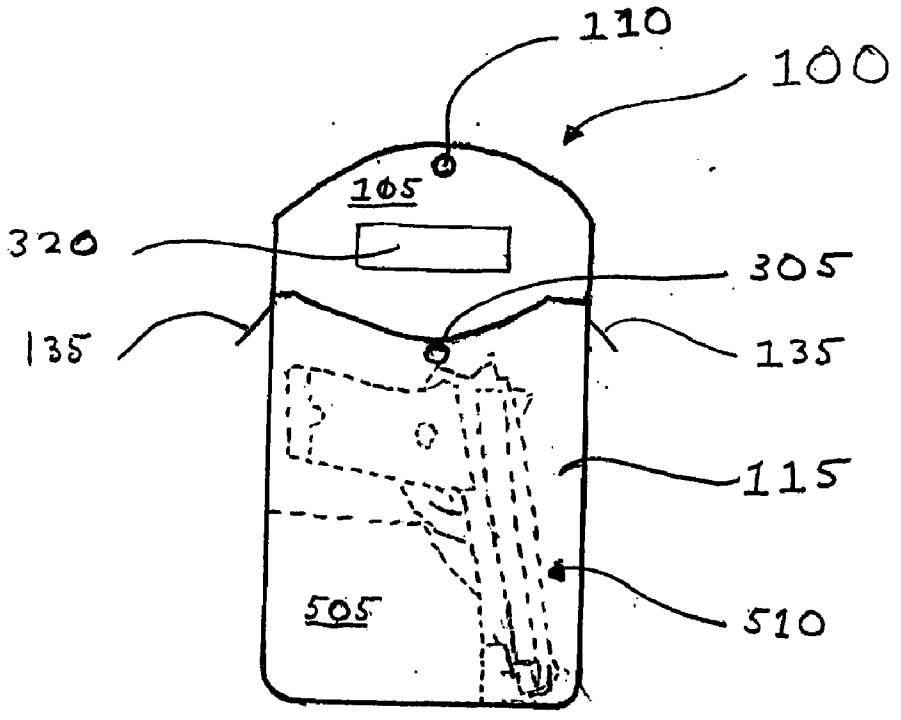


FIG. 5

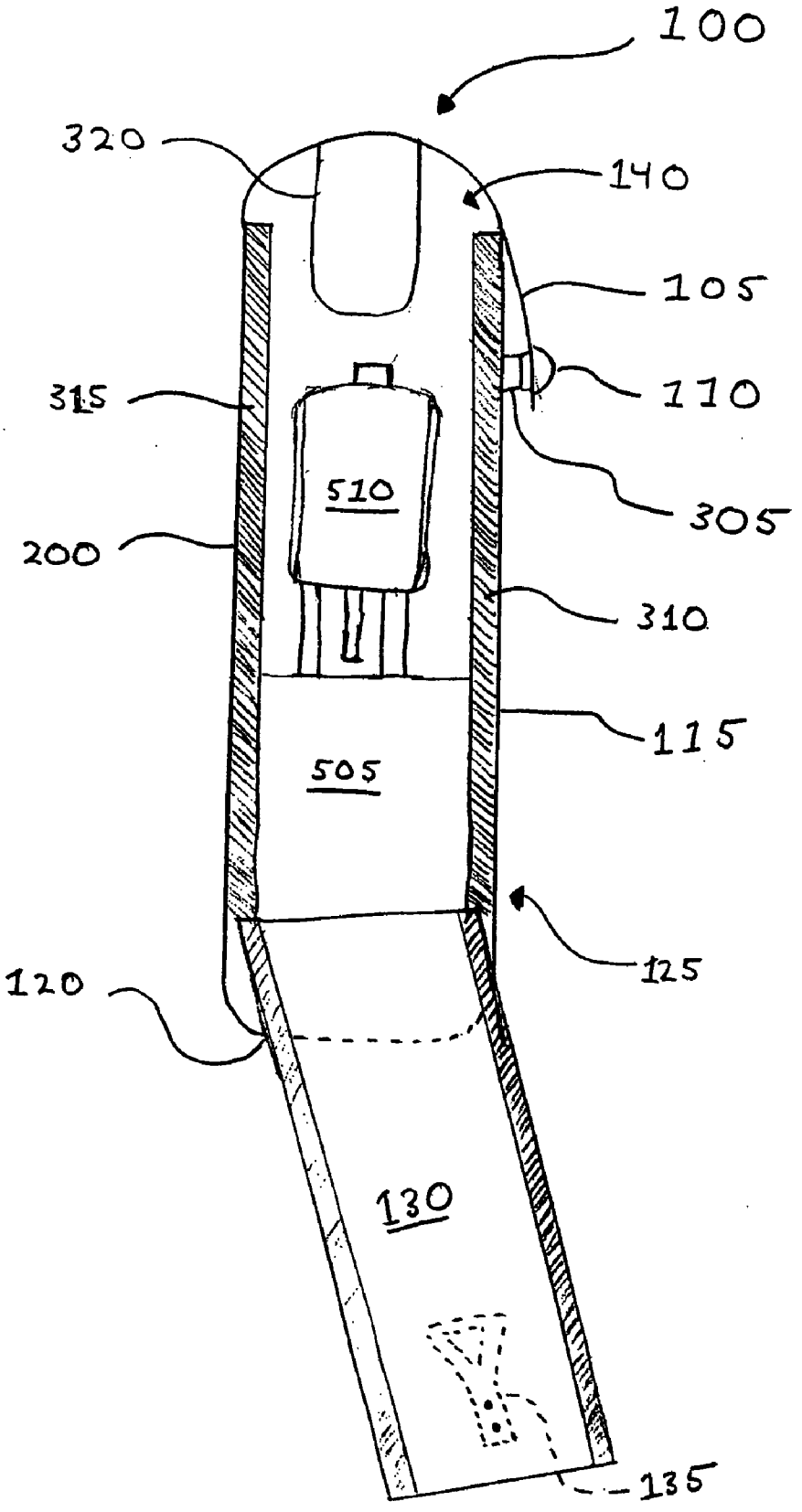


FIG. 6

SELECTABLY CONFIGURED CONCEALED WEAPONS CASE

BACKGROUND

[0001] 1. Field of the Present Invention

[0002] The present invention generally relates to the field of hand gun holsters, and more particularly to an improved case selectably configured for use with concealed weapons.

[0003] 2. History of Related Art

[0004] The use of a holster for carrying a hand gun and other weapons on a person's body is well known. While many holsters are adapted to support the hand gun or other weapon in a visible location on the person's body, other holsters are designed to be worn under a coat or trouser leg in an attempt to conceal the fact that a hand gun or other weapon is being carried. In certain instances, the concealment is desired (as in the case of plain clothed law enforcement officers). In other instances, the concealment is required by law (as in the case of certain state laws and regulations involving concealed hand guns).

[0005] Typically, when a hand gun or weapon is carried in a concealed manner, the attempted concealment is not always effective. This is due to the fact that the typical hand gun and holster combination are bulky and may often produce a recognizable bulge when worn under a coat jacket or shirt. Moreover, while the holster usually facilitates the quick retrieval of the hand gun or weapon, the combined bulk of the holster and the hand gun or weapon is not always comfortable to the individual wearing the holster in the concealed location. This level of discomfort usually rises considerably in warmer climates. Further, such hand gun and holster combinations often times fail to comply fully with applicable laws regulating the carrying of concealed weapons. These laws may require that the hand gun or weapon (when worn on the person) must not be openly discernible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person. For the reasons stated above, this requirement is not always met.

[0006] One alternative is to forego the holster and carry the hand gun or weapon in a purse or other similar bag. While a purse or other similar bag will typically keep the hand gun or weapon well concealed and not openly discernable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person, it is usually difficult to maintain the hand gun or weapon in secure position when it is being carried inside a purse or other similar bag and even more difficult to quickly retrieve the hand gun or weapon when desired. These problems may be aggravated depending on the size of the purse or other similar bag and by other items also being carried in the purse or other similar bag.

[0007] Accordingly, it would be beneficial for a case configured to be worn on a person's body that not only effectively conceals a hand gun or weapon stored within the case, but also maintains the hand gun or weapon in a secure position and that can be selectively configured to permit the easy and quick retrieval of the hand gun or weapon by either hand of the person.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] The structure and operation of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0009] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention depicting a side access panel and the front panel, and with the closure flap in a closed position;

[0010] FIG. **2** is a rear view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention depicting the rear panel;

[0011] FIG. **3** is a side view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention depicting a side access panel, the snap, the snap receiver, and the ammunition holder with the closure flap in a closed position;

[0012] FIG. **4** is a side view of an individual with the preferred embodiment of the present invention selectively attached to the individual's belt;

[0013] FIG. **5** is a front view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention depicting the weapon stabilizer securing a hand gun inside the present invention with the closure flap in an open position; and

[0014] FIG. **6** is a side view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention depicting the snap, the snap receiver, the ammunition holder, and the weapon stabilizer with the closure flap in a closed position and a sub-panel fastener in the open position.

[0015] While the present invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments thereof are shown by way of example in the drawings and will herein be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the drawings and detailed description presented herein are not intended to limit the invention to the particular embodiment disclosed. On the contrary, the invention is limited only by the claim language.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0016] Generally speaking, the present invention contemplates a weapons case that has a weapon stabilizer and multiple access panels and is configured for carrying a weapon in a concealed manner on a person's body. The weapons case permits the weapon to be maintained in a secure position while inside the weapons case and can be configured to permit the quick retrieval of the weapon by either hand of the person. Throughout the description and the drawings, elements which are the same will be accorded the same reference numerals.

[0017] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. Weapons case **100** includes closure flap **105**, front panel **115**, access panels **125** and **145**, bottom panel **120**, and rear panel **200** (which is depicted in FIG. **2**). In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, each of front panel **115**, access panels **125** and **145**, bottom panel **120**, and rear panel **200** have an inner and an outer face and further have a first, second, third, and fourth edge.

[0018] In this preferred embodiment, (i) the first edge of access panel **125** is connected to the first edge of rear panel **200**; the third edge of access panel **125** is connected to the first edge of front panel **115**; and the second edge of access panel **125** is connected to the first edge of bottom panel **120**; (ii) the first edge of access panel **145** is connected to the third edge of rear panel **200**; the third edge of access panel **145** is connected to the third edge of front panel **115**; and the

second edge of access panel **145** is connected to the third edge of bottom panel **120**; (iii) the second edge of rear panel **200** is connected to the fourth edge of bottom panel **120**; (iv) the second edge of front panel **115** is connected to the second edge of bottom panel **120**; and (v) the fourth edge of rear panel **200** includes closure flap **105** which closure flap **105** is configured to selectively attach to the outer face of front panel **115** using snap **110**.

[**0019**] When attached to the outer face of front panel **115** using snap **110**, closure flap **105** may form openings **140** and **150** directly above access panels **125** and **145**, respectively. In this preferred embodiment, each of the inner faces of front panel **115**, access panels **125** and **145**, bottom panel **120**, and rear panel **200** face one another and form an enclosure configured to receive a weapon. In this preferred embodiment, weapons case **100** is approximately 5 inches (127 mm) wide, 6 inches (152.4 mm) tall, and 1 inch (25.4 mm) deep and each panel is constructed with leather panels wherein the edges of each panel are connected as referenced above with stitches and wherein each panel is of a sufficient thickness to conceal any bulging from a weapon pressing against the panel. Other embodiments may be selectively sized and constructed from materials and connected by glue, fasteners, and other attachment methods well known in the relevant art as necessary to accommodate the intended weapon and prevent recognizable bulging. Further, it will be noted by those with ordinary skill in the relevant art, that weapons case **100** may be formed by one continuous panel having the closure flap and access panel features set forth herein and that not all portions of the edges of the panels of weapons case **100** may be attached to the corresponding edge of the applicable panels referenced above. As used herein, the term "weapons case" is intended to mean all such cases as well as any enclosure that includes one or more parts, can be selectively attached to a person's body or clothing, and that is configured to carry a weapon inside the enclosure in concealed manner.

[**0020**] Access panel **125** of weapons case **100** further includes access tab **135** connected to sub-panel fastener **130**. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, when access tab **135** is pulled in a downward manner, sub-panel fastener **130** transitions to an open position and creates an opening in access panel **125** so at to permit access into weapons case **100**. It will be appreciated, that access tab **135** and sub-panel fastener **130** allow one to access the contents of weapons case **100** without having to access snap **110** and lift closure flap **105**, thereby facilitating the quick retrieval of the contents of weapons case **100**. Access panel **125** is described in more detail in FIG. **3**.

[**0021**] FIG. **2** is a rear view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. Rear panel **200** includes belt slots **205** and **210** which are accessed from the outer face of rear panel **200** and which are configured to receive a belt or other strap in order to selectively mount weapons case **100** to the wearer's body. Belt slots **205** and **210** are preferably sized and located substantially parallel and in proximity to one another in order to accommodate a wide belt or other strap and to minimize the lateral movement of weapons case **100** when mounted to the wearer's body. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, each of belt slots **205** and **210** are 0.25 inches (6.35 mm) wide and 2 inches (50.8 mm) long and are positioned approximately 2 (50.8 mm) inches apart. Belt panel **210** is mounted on the inner face of rear panel **200**. Belt panel **210** prevents the openings created by belt slots **205** and **210** from extending into the interior of weapons case **100**. In a the preferred embodiment of the present invention, belt panel **210** is constructed of leather and glued to inner face of rear panel **200**. In other embodiments, belt panel **210** may be omitted or may be constructed from other materials and connected by glue, fasteners, and other attachment methods well known in the relevant art as necessary to seal the inner face of rear panel **200**. Further, in alternative embodiments of the present invention, belt slots **205** and **210** may be replaced or supplemented by additional mounting means such as clip or loop mechanism for mounting weapons case **100** to the wearer's body.

[**0022**] FIG. **3** is a side view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. Closure flap **105** of rear panel **200** is shown in a closed position. In this closed position, snap **110** is operatively connected to snap receiver **305**, and closure flap **105** forms opening **140**. Snap receiver **305** is mounted on front panel **115** in a position so as to receive snap **110**. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, snap **110** is a cap fastener and snap receiver **305** is a corresponding socket or stud fastener, both of which are well known and widely available. In alternative embodiments of the present invention, closure flap **105** may be operatively connected to front panel **115** with hook and loop fasteners (such as Velcro®), buttons, and the like. This preferred embodiment includes ammunition holder **320** connected to the inner face of closure flap **105**. Ammunition holder **320** is discussed in more detail in FIG. **5**.

[**0023**] Access panel **125** includes sub-panels **310** and **315**. It will be noted that in this preferred embodiment, sub-panels **310** and **315** substantially extend the longitudinal length of access panel **125**. Access tab **135** is connected to one end of sub-panel fastener **130**. Sub-panel fastener **130** may be selectively maintained between an open position and a closed position. When in the open position, sub-panel fastener **130** creates an opening between sub-panels **310** and **315**, thereby allowing one to access the contents of weapons case **100** without having to access snap **110** and snap receiver **305** in order to lift closure flap **105**.

[**0024**] When in the closed position, sub-panel fastener **130** joins sub-panels **310** and **315**, thereby preventing access to the contents of weapons case **100**. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, access tab **135** is used to selectively transition sub-panel fastener **130** between an open position and a closed position. In this preferred embodiment, sub-panel fastener **130** is constructed of a material similar to sub-panels **310** and **315** and is selectively joined to sub-panels **310** and **315** using hook and loop fasteners such as Velcro®. In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, sub-panel fastener **130** may include a zipper. It will be appreciated that the width of sub-panel fastener **130** may be increased and the width of sub-panels **310** and **315** decreased to facilitate access to and removal of the contents of weapons case **100** when sub-panel fastener **130** is maintained in the open position. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, access panel **145** includes an access tab, sub-panels, and a sub-panel fastener as shown with respect to access panel **125**, and thereby, permits the contents of weapons case **100** to be accessed from either of access panels **125** or **145**.

[**0025**] FIG. **4** depicts a side view of an individual with the preferred embodiment of the present invention selectively

attached to the individual's belt. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, belt **400** is passed through belt slots **205** and **210** (not shown) so that the outer face of front panel **115** faces away from the individual and the outer face of rear panel **200** faces the individual. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the contents of weapons case **100** may be accessed using closure flap **105** or through either of access panels **125** and **145**. As such, it will be appreciated that the contents of weapons case **100** are readily accessible by either hand of the individual wearing the weapons case regardless of the orientation or location of the weapons case on the individual's body.

[**0026**] FIG. **5** is a front view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention with closure flap **105** in the open position. Weapons case **100** includes ammunition holder **320** connected to the inner face of rear panel **200** with stitching. In an alternative embodiment, ammunition holder **320** may be connected to any of the inner faces of front panel **115**, access panels **125** and **145**, bottom panel **120**, and rear panel **200** with such connection being accomplished by glue, fasteners, and other attachment methods well known in the relevant art. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, ammunition holder **320** is a loop constructed of leather and is configured to receive and securely hold the ammunition corresponding to the weapon to be carried within weapons case **100**. In an alternative embodiment, ammunition holder **320** is constructed of elastic or similar flexible material. Weapon stabilizer **505** is configured to be placed inside weapons case **100** so that weapon **510** is lodged against the inner face of applicable front panel **115**, access panels **125** and **145**, bottom panel **120**, and rear panel **200**.

[**0027**] Weapon stabilizer **505** may be further configured to accommodate unique features of weapon **510** so as to better secure weapon **510** from unwanted movement while located inside weapons case **100**. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, weapon stabilizer **505** is configured to secure the handle of weapon **510** in a position that facilitates the withdrawal of weapon **510** when accessed from access panel **125**. In one embodiment of the present invention, weapon stabilizer **505** may be selectively attached against one or more of the inner faces of front panel **115**, access panels **125** and **145**, bottom panel **120**, and rear panel **200** using hook and loop fasteners such as Velcro®; with such hook and loop fasteners facilitating the placement of weapon stabilizer **505** as needed to secure weapon **510** from unwanted movement. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, weapon stabilizer **505** is made from a light weight foam and contacts the inner faces of both front panel **115** and rear panel **200** when secured inside weapons case **100**. In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, weapon stabilizer **505** may be configured so as to permit orientation of the handle of weapon **510** towards either of access panels **125** and **145** as desired by the wearer, thus permitting the weapon to be easily withdrawn by either hand of the wearer.

[**0028**] FIG. **6** is a side view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention depicting closure flap **105** in a closed position and a sub-panel fastener **130** in an open position. Sub-panel fastener **130** is removably attached to sub-panels **310** and **315**, respectively, using hook and loop fasteners such as Velcro®. Weapon stabilizer **505** is shown selectably attached to the front panel **115**, bottom panel **120**, and rear panel **200** and secures weapon **510** from unwanted movement. When sub-panel fastener **130** is transitioned to a closed position, it will be appreciated that weapon **510** and weapon stabilizer **505** will neither be visible nor accessible through access panel **125**.

[**0029**] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art having the benefit of this disclosure that the present invention contemplates a weapons case that has a weapon stabilizer, an ammunition holder, and multiple access panels, is configured for carrying a weapon in a concealed manner on a person's body, permits the weapon to be maintained in a secure position while inside the weapons case, and can be configured to permit the quick retrieval of the weapon by either hand of the person.

[**0030**] It is understood that the forms of the invention shown and described in the detailed description and the drawings are to be taken merely as presently preferred examples and that the invention is limited only by the language of the claims. While the present invention has been described in terms of one preferred embodiment and a few variations thereof, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that form and detail modifications may be made to those embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A weapons case for carrying a concealed weapon, said weapons case comprising:

a closure flap;

an access panel; and

a weapon stabilizer.

2. The weapons case of claim 1, wherein said access panel further comprises:

a first sub-panel;

a second sub-panel; and

a sub-panel fastener configured to selectively connect to said first sub-panel and said second sub-panel and to transition between an open position and a closed position.

3. The weapons case of claim 2, wherein when said sub-panel fastener is in said open position, a concealed weapon carried within said weapons case is accessible and visible and further wherein when said sub-panel fastener is in said closed position, said concealed weapon is inaccessible and not visible.

4. The weapon case of claim 1, wherein said weapon stabilizer is configured to selectively attach to the inside of said weapons case and to secure a concealed weapon carried within said weapons case from unwanted movement.

5. The weapons case of claim 4, wherein said weapon stabilizer attaches to the inside of said weapons case with a hook and loop fastener.

6. The weapons case of claim 1 further comprising an ammunition holder.

7. The weapons case of claim 6, wherein said ammunition holder is attached to the inside of said weapons case.

8. The weapons case of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of belt slots.

9. The weapons case of claim 8 further comprising a belt panel configured to cover said belt slots.

10. A weapons case comprising:

a closure flap;

a front panel;

a first access panel;

a second access panel;

a bottom panel;

a rear panel;

a weapon stabilizer; and

wherein each of said front panel, said plurality of access panels, said bottom panel, and said rear panel have an inner and an outer face and further have a first, second, third, and fourth edge; and

further wherein said first edge of said first access panel is connected to said first edge of said rear panel; said third edge of said first access panel is connected to said first edge of said front panel; and said second edge of said first access panel is connected to said first edge of said bottom panel; and

further wherein said first edge of said second access panel is connected to said third edge of said rear panel; the third edge of said second access panel is connected to said third edge of said front panel; and said second edge of said second access panel is connected to said third edge of said bottom panel; and

further wherein said second edge of said rear panel is connected to said fourth edge of said bottom panel and said second edge of said front panel is connected to said second edge of said bottom panel; and

further wherein said fourth edge of said rear panel includes said closure flap;

further wherein said closure flap is configured to selectively attach to the outer face of said front panel using said snap; and

further wherein said weapon stabilizer is configured to attached to said inner faces of said front panel, said rear panel, said first and second access panels, and said bottom panel and further configured to secure the handle of a weapon carried within said weapons case in a position that facilitates the withdrawal of said weapon when said weapon is accessed from either of said first access panel or said second access panel.

11. The weapons case of claim 10 further wherein said rear panel include a plurality of belt slots.

12. The weapons case of claim 11 further comprising a belt panel attached to said inner face of said rear panel wherein said belt panel covers said plurality of belt slots.

13. The weapons case of claim 10 wherein said first access panel further comprises:

a first sub-panel;

a second sub-panel;

a sub-panel fastener; and

an access tab connected to said sub-panel fastener.

14. The weapons case of claim 13 wherein said first sub-panel and said second sub-panel substantially extend the longitudinal length of said first access panel, and further wherein said sub-panel fastener is configured to selectively connect to said first sub-panel and said second sub-panel and to transition between an open position and a closed position.

15. The weapons case of claim 13, wherein when said sub-panel fastener is in said open position, a concealed weapon carried within said weapons case is accessible and visible and further wherein when said sub-panel fastener is in said closed position, said concealed weapon is inaccessible and not visible.

16. The weapons case of claim 13, wherein said sub-panel fastener is selectively connected to said first sub-panel and said second sub-panel using hook and loop fasteners.

17. The weapons case of claim 13, wherein said sub-panel fastener includes a zipper.

18. The weapons case of claim 10 further comprising an ammunition holder.

19. The weapons case of claim 18, wherein said ammunition holder is attached to the inside face of said rear panel.

20. The weapons case of claim 10, wherein said closure flap, said front panel, said first access panel, said second access panel, said bottom panel, and said rear panel are constructed of leather configured to prevent recognizable bulging caused by a weapon carried within said weapons case.

* * * * *