E. J. HILLMAN.

FASTENER FOR MAIL AND OTHER BAGS.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 11, 1910.

1,040,324. Patented Oct. 8, 1912.

Fig. 1.

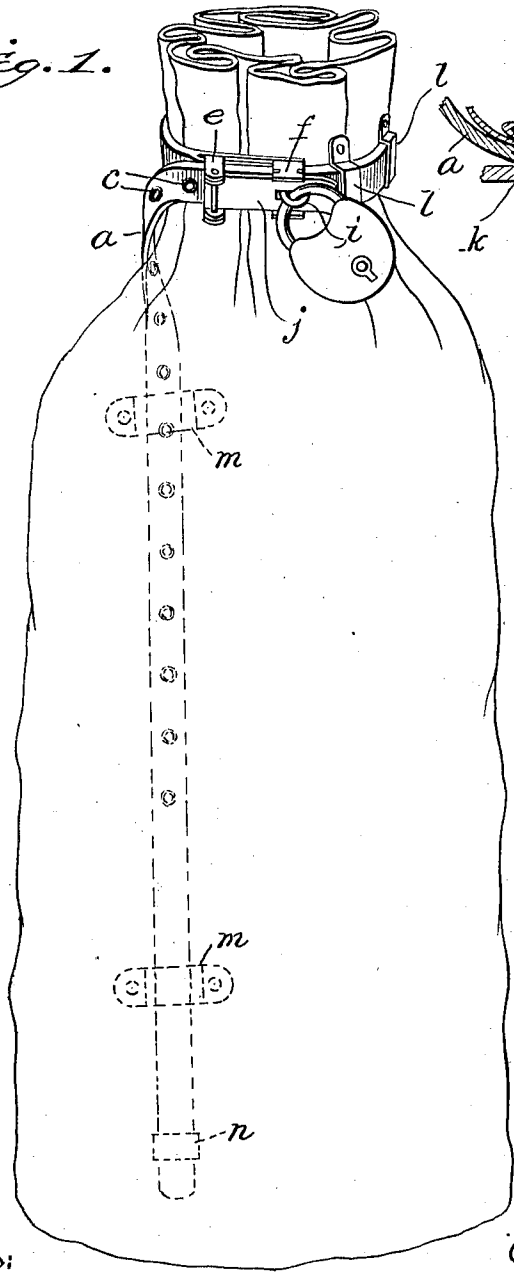


Fig. 2.

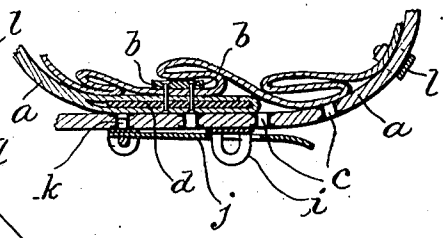


Fig. 3.

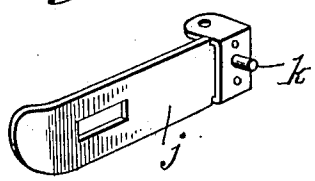
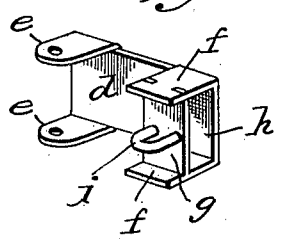


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FASTENER FOR MAIL AND OTHER BAGS.

1,040,324. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 8, 1912.

Application filed August 11, 1910. Serial No. 576,770.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. HILLMAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Lookout Mountain, in the county of Hamilton, in the State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fasteners for Mail and other Bags, of which the following is a full and clear specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bag provided with my improved fastener, showing the same closed and locked; Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view through the closing devices, in closed position; and Figs. 3 and 4 detail perspective views of parts hereinafter described.

The object of this invention is to provide a construction whereby the fastening strap is permanently attached to the bag, thereby preventing its detachment from the bag except by cutting it, whereby great convenience in manipulating the device is obtained, as more fully hereinafter set forth.

In the drawing *a* designates the strap one end of which is permanently fastened to the outer surface of the bag near the top edge thereof by a suitable device, such as rivets *b* which pass through the strap and the bag fabric, said strap being of sufficient length to surround the mouth of the bag when the same is extended and being also provided with a series of eyeleted holes *c* for purposes of adjustment. The rivets *b* also clamp in place a metallic plate *d*, inserted in the split end of the strap, this plate being provided at its rear end with a pair of ears *e* and at its other end with a pair of ears *f*, said ears being turned outwardly so as to embrace the side edges of the free portion of the strap when the same is threaded between the ears. The ears *f* are connected by a flat plate *g* at a suitable distance in from their ends, forming between said plate *g* and the base plate *d* a strap eye *h*. Projecting from the plate *g* mid-way its ends is a staple *i* and adapted to engage over this staple is a hasp *j*, pivoted between the lugs *e* at the other end of the base plate. The clasp *j* is provided at its hinged end with an inwardly projecting pin *k*. A suitable number of keepers *l* are fastened at intervals around the mouth of the bag to confine the straps slidingly thereto, and the free end of the strap is conveniently confined to the side of the bag when the bag is closed and there is therefore a surplus of strap which would dangle if not confined, by a suitable number of keepers *m* attached to the bag at suitable points thereon. The extreme end of the strap is provided with a stop *n* which however is not large enough to prevent the end of the strap being drawn freely out of the keepers *m*.

It will be observed that the strap passes around the mouth of the bag through the keepers *l* and that its free portion is extended through the eye *h* and along under the hasp *j*. After the strap is pulled tightly to close the bag, the hasp *j* is swung inwardly over the staple *i*, care being taken to see that the pin *k* enters one of the eyeleted holes in the strap; the bag may be then locked or closed by attaching to the staple *i* a suitable padlock or other device.

It will be observed by reason of the employment of the eye or loop *h* and the mounting of the staple on the front wall thereof, it will be unnecessary to form slots in the strap for the passage of the staple and furthermore the strap will be held securely and rigidly in place without undue strain upon the hasp and the base plate with its ears.

It will be observed also that with this construction the bag may be opened and closed without detaching either end of the strap from the bag, it being simply necessary in opening the bag to swing the hasp out of engagement with the strap and then draw its free end portion back through the loop *h*, its extreme end being prevented from being drawn out of the same by the stop *n* striking against the edges of the ears *e*.

It will thus be observed that by my device the strap will always be in such a convenient position that the bag may be opened and closed and locked with the utmost expedition.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In combination with a bag, of a strap having one end permanently attached to the bag and being long enough to entirely surround the mouth of the bag when the bag is open, means for slidingly confining the free end of the strap to the bag at the point where it overlaps the permanently fastened end, said means consisting of a plate carrying at one

end a closed eye having an outwardly projecting staple on its front wall and at its other end a pivoted hasp, said hasp being provided with a pin which is adapted to enter holes in the strap, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses this 1st day of August, 1910.

EDWARD J. HILLMAN.

Witnesses:
S. BARTOW STRANG,
CHAS. N. FOX.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."