July 22, 1952 S. KNEE 2,604,134

WALLET OR SIMILAR ARTICLE WITH SECRET COMPARTMENT

Filed Nov. 14, 1946

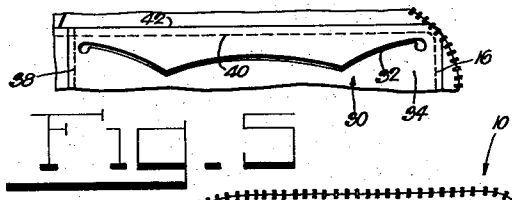


FIG. 5

FIG. 1

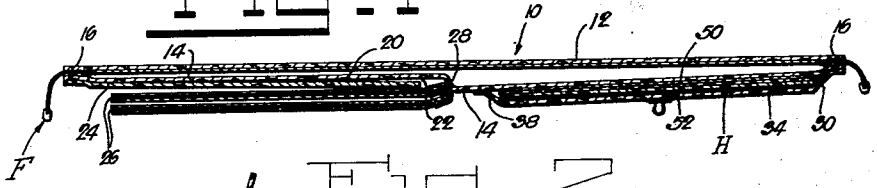


FIG. 2

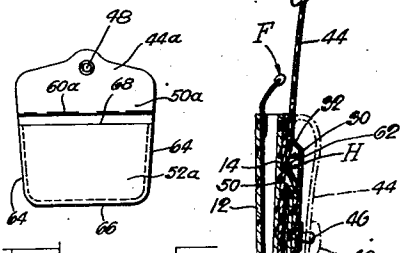


FIG. 6

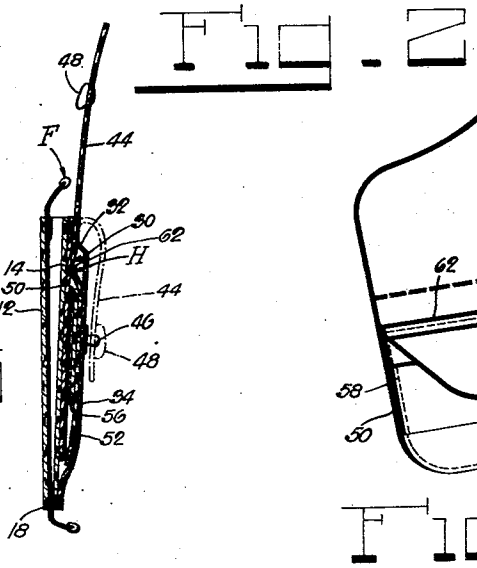


FIG. 3

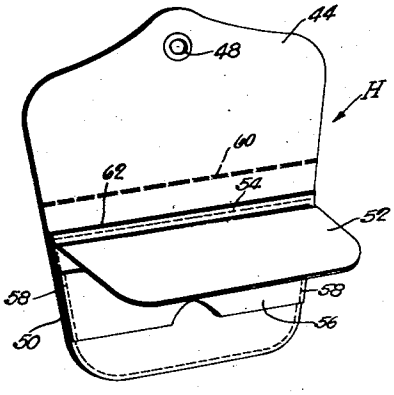


FIG. 4

INVENTOR
SIMON KNEE

BY Harry Cohn

ATTORNEY

Patented July 22, 1952 2,604,134

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,604,134

WALLET OR SIMILAR ARTICLE WITH SECRET COMPARTMENT

Simon Knee, Newark, N. J.

Application November 14, 1946, Serial No. 709,696

5 Claims. (Cl. 150—38)

1

The present invention relates to wallets or similar articles.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a wallet, billfold or other suitable container with a secret holder for paper money or other papers or articles, said secret holder being so constructed and related to the container as to enable the latter to be provided with said holder at minimum cost and by simple manufacturing operations.

Another object of the present invention is to provide the wallet or other container with a secret holder which includes means forming a closure flap for a compartment of the container.

In accordance with the present invention the holder is preferably completely removable and detachable from the container and the construction of this detachable holder is such that the above mentioned means which provides a closure flap for a compartment of the wallet or other container also constitutes means to facilitate the removal of the holder for said compartment.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be understood from the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings which are to be considered as illustrative of the invention, but not in limitation thereof.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an inner side view of a foldable wallet, in the unfolded condition thereof, showing the secret holder positioned within a compartment of the wallet, the closure flap for said compartment being in its open position;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the holder removed from the wallet;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view of the wallet, the secret holder being removed;

Fig. 6 is a front view of a holder of another form.

As illustrated in the drawings, the present invention is shown as embodied in a foldable wallet 10 of the type which is provided with a slide fastener F which as usual comprises interlocking elements operated by a slider S. It will be understood however that the present invention may be embodied in any other type of wallet or container. As here shown, said wallet comprises the main foldable pocket formed by the outer wall 12 and the inner wall 14 which are joined to each other, as by stitching, at their opposite ends 16 and at their lower edges 18. A compartment 20 is disposed at one side of the central line of fold of the wallet and is provided with an end opening 22 disposed near and extending parallel to said line of fold. Said compartment is formed by a part of main wall 14 and by a

2

layer 24 which is stitched at the edges thereof to the adjacent edges of said part of wall 14. Also, as here shown, the wallet may be provided with a plurality of swingable compartments 26 attached to wall 14 adjacent the central line of fold as indicated at 28.

In accordance with the present invention, the wallet 10 is provided with a compartment 30 which is disposed at one side of the central line of fold of the wallet and which has a top opening 32. Said compartment comprises a wall 34 stitched to wall 14 by the lower edge stitching 18, the side edge stitching 16 and 38 and the top edge stitching 40, it being noted that the compartment opening 32 is preferably formed as here shown by a slit in wall 34 near the upper edge 42 thereof.

A holder or secret pocket device H is positioned within compartment 30. Preferably, as here shown, said secret holder and pocket device is completely removable from the compartment 30 and includes a foldable part 44 which forms a closure flap for compartment 30, wall 34 of the latter and part 44 of holder H being provided with separable fastener members, preferably snap fastener elements 46 and 48, respectively, for releasably fastening the closure flap and thus releasably securing the holder H within compartment 30.

The holder H which is preferably formed of leather but which can be formed of any other suitable material comprises two walls 50 and 52 which are disposed in confronting relation and are stitched to each other by the line of stitching 54 at the upper edge of wall 52, so that said walls 50 and 52 are relatively movable as clearly shown in Fig. 4. As illustrated, wall 50 is preferably formed integrally with part 44. A strap 56 is secured at its opposite ends to one of said walls, here shown as wall 50 by stitching 58 at said opposite ends of said strap and at the adjacent side edge portions of wall 50. It will be understood that paper money or other papers, can be disposed between the confronting surfaces of wall 50 and strap 56 so as to be retained in that position and so as to be concealed between wall 50 and the companion confronting wall 52. When holder H is within compartment 30, said holder forms a divider for said compartment, since money or other articles may be placed in the sub-compartment between wall 14 of the wallet and wall 50 of holder H, and similarly money or other articles may be placed within the sub-compartment defined by wall 52 and the inner confronting surface of wall 34. It will be observed that part 44 of the holder H not only forms a closure flap for compartment 30 and thus serves to conceal the presence in said compartment of the secret pocket or holder H, and not only constitutes means for removably securing the holder in compartment 30 but also provides

means, in the nature of a pull tab, to facilitate removal of said holder from the compartment when it is desired to obtain access to the holder for removal or insertion of articles between wall **50** and the retaining strap **56**. It will be understood that when the holder is in compartment **30**, wall **52** lies flat and close to wall **50** and strap **56**. Further it will be observed that part **44** is foldable with respect to wall **50** along a line of fold **60** which as indicated in full lines in Fig. 1 and in dotted lines in Fig. 4 is disposed above the upper edge of wall **52** and is located substantially at the upper edge of wall **14** and at the upper edge **42** of compartment wall **34**. When the holder H is disposed within the compartment **30** of the wallet the upper edge **62** of wall **52** of the holder is disposed near but below opening **32** of compartment **30** so that the presence of said holder in the compartment is not observable and is not readily detectable.

The secret holder may be of the form illustrated in Fig. 6, although the construction shown in Fig. 4 is presently preferred. In Fig. 6, the confronting walls **50***a* and **52***a* are stitched or otherwise joined at their side edges **64** and at their bottom edges **66**. The holder here shown has a top opening **68** and the foldable part **44***a* which corresponds to part **44** of the holder shown in Fig. 4 is foldable about the line **60***a*. It will be understood that the holder shown in Fig. 6, like the holder shown in Fig. 4, fits in the compartment **30**.

It will be understood that various changes in the details of construction and in the arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the underlying idea or principles of the invention within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. In a wallet provided with a compartment having an opening for access to the interior of the compartment, an article holder normally positioned in said compartment, said holder being insertable into said compartment and removable therefrom through said opening, said holder comprising a pair of relatively movable wall members secured together adjacent the tops thereof, whereby to disguise the fact that there are two wall members, and an extension provided on one of said wall members at the top thereof, said extension being foldable and releasably attachable to said compartment in overlying relation thereto externally thereof and forming a releasable closure means for said compartment.

2. In a wallet provided with a compartment having an opening for access to the interior of the compartment, an article holder normally positioned in said compartment, said holder being insertable into said compartment and removable therefrom through said opening, said holder comprising a pair of relatively movable wall members secured together adjacent the tops thereof, whereby to disguise the fact that there are two wall members, and an extension provided on one of said wall members at the top thereof, said extension being foldable and releasably attachable to said compartment in overlying relation thereto externally thereof and forming a releasable closure means for said compartment, and means provided on one of said wall members for retaining an article in position thereon, said means being disposed between the confronting surfaces of said wall members for concealment by said wall members.

3. In a wallet provided with a compartment having an opening for access to the interior of the compartment, an article holder normally positioned in said compartment, said holder being insertable into said compartment and removable therefrom through said opening, said holder comprising a pair of relatively movable wall members secured together adjacent the tops thereof, whereby to disguise the fact that there are two wall members, and an extension provided on one of said wall members at the top thereof, said extension being foldable and releasably attachable to said compartment in overlying relation thereto externally thereof and forming a releasable closure means for said compartment, and means provided on one of said wall members for retaining an article in position thereon, said means being disposed between the confronting surfaces of said wall members for concealment by said wall members, said means being constituted by a strap secured to the inner surface of said latter one of said wall members.

4. An article holder for use with a wallet compartment having an opening for access to the interior of the compartment, said holder being removably insertable in said compartment through said opening and comprising a pair of relatively movable wall members secured together adjacent the tops thereof, whereby to disguise the fact that there are two wall members, and an extension provided on one of said wall members at the top thereof, said extension being foldable and having means for the releasable attachment thereof to the compartment in overlying relation thereto and externally thereof whereby to form a releasable closure for the compartment.

5. An article holder for use with a wallet compartment having an opening for access to the interior of the compartment, said holder being removably insertable in said compartment through said opening and comprising a single-wall partition for said compartment to form sub-compartments therein, said partition having a portion which projects from said opening when said holder is positioned in said compartment, said portion being foldable and having means for the releasable attachment thereof to the compartment in overlying relation thereto and externally thereof whereby to form a releasable closure for the compartment, means carried by said partition inwardly from said projecting portion thereof for retaining an article thereon, and a wall part secured at its upper edge to said partition inwardly of said projecting portion and above the lower edge of said partition, said wall part overlying said article-retaining means for concealing the latter.

SIMON KNEE.

REFERENCES CITED

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

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,425,217	Regulski	Aug. 8, 1922
1,564,967	Kulick	Dec. 8, 1925
1,895,782	Buxton	Jan. 31, 1933
2,087,922	Mayer	July 27, 1937
2,319,110	Buxton	May 11, 1943
2,344,694	Gardner	Mar. 21, 1944
2,423,939	Knee	July 15, 1947
2,439,715	Broughton	Apr. 13, 1948
2,458,711	Knee	Jan. 11, 1949
2,476,739	Knee	July 19, 1949