

Oct. 24, 1939.

W. R. BUXTON

2,176,987

FLEXIBLE POCKET RECEPTACLE

Filed Dec. 16, 1938

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

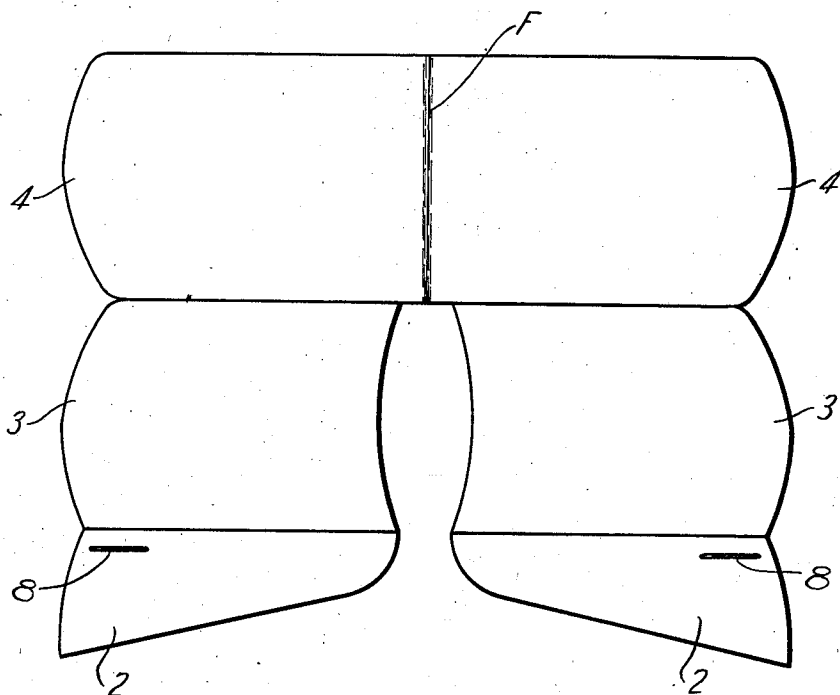
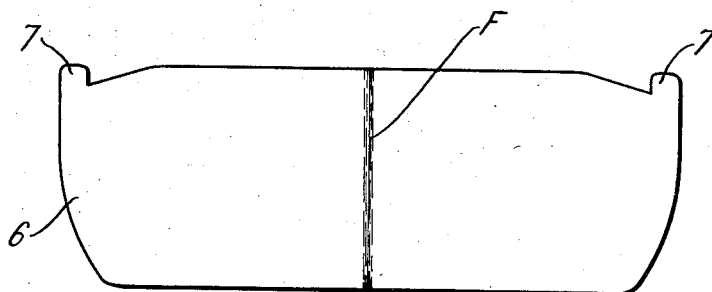


FIG. 2.



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FIG. 3.

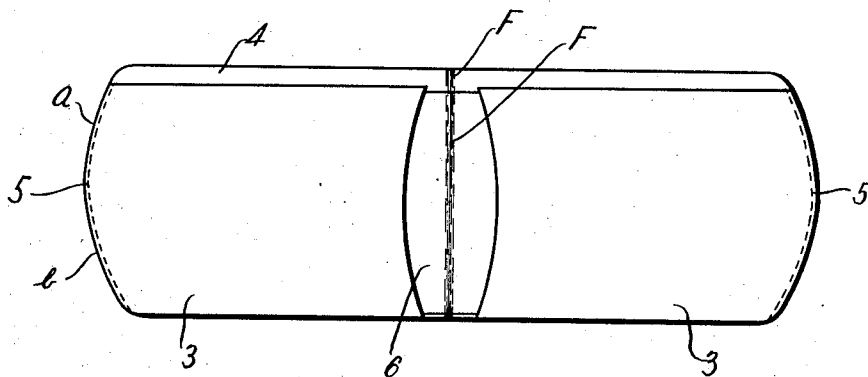
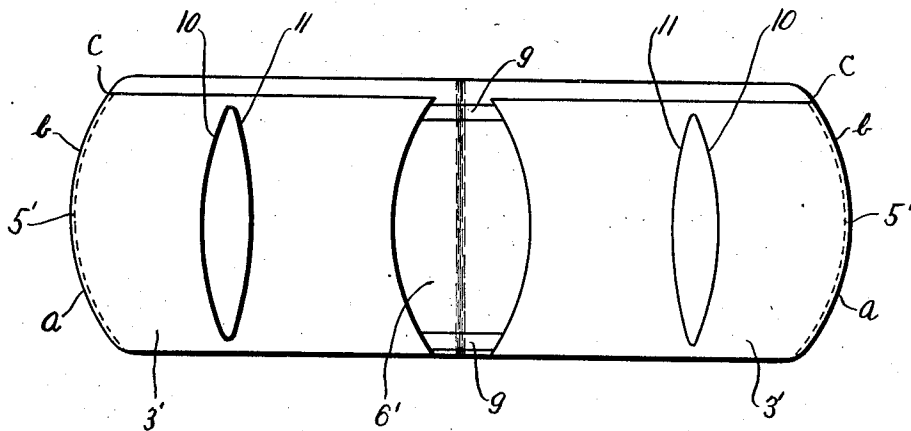


FIG. 4.



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FIG. 5.

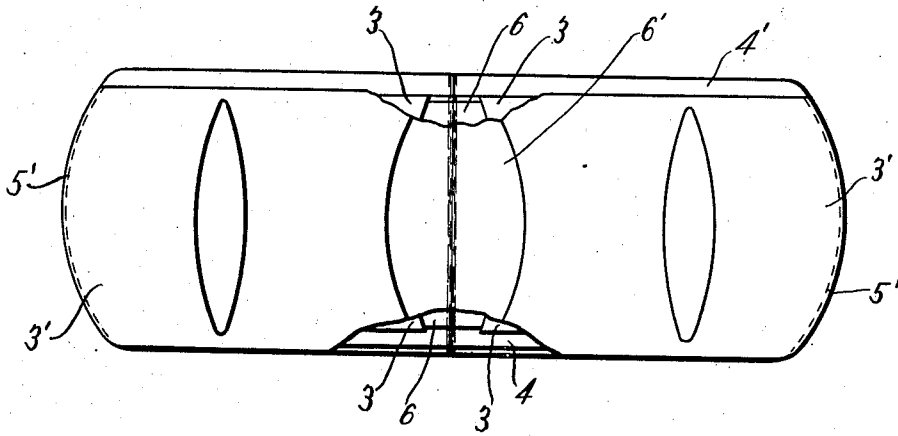
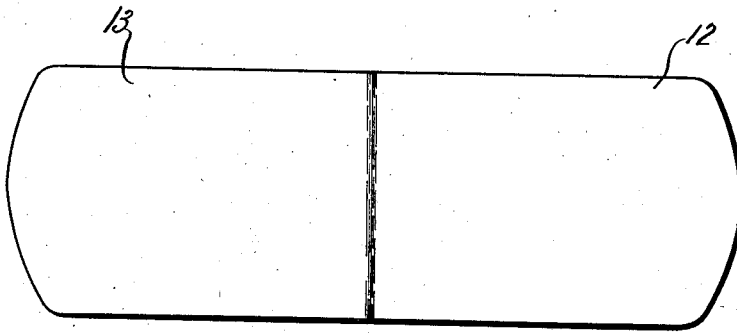


FIG. 6.



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2,176,987

FLEXIBLE POCKET RECEPTACLE

Warner R. Buxton, Longmeadow, Mass.

Application December 16, 1938, Serial No. 246,173

6 Claims. (Cl. 150—38)

This invention relates to an improved bill fold. Its object is to provide a bill fold, the elements of which may be most conveniently arranged for cooperation in a variety of ways for a variety of uses. The structure by which this is accomplished and its particular utility from various aspects will be disclosed with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is an envelope blank of a preferred form;

Fig. 2 is a loose panel wall to combine with the blank of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view of the parts of Figs. 1 and 2 assembled as a bill fold;

Fig. 4 is a similar view of a slightly larger bill fold within which the one of Fig. 3 may be nested;

Fig. 5 is a view of the bill folds of Figs. 3 and 4 nested, with parts broken away to indicate some features of the following description; and

Fig. 6 is a view of a partition wall which may be used with the bill fold, such as is shown in Fig. 4.

With the elements shown in the drawings I can make up my improved bill fold as follows: In Fig. 1 the edge panels 2 are folded against panels 3 and the latter against panel 4. Then the stitches 5 are put in to hold the folds. These stitches hold the end edges of all the panels 2, 3, 4, which are curved, and close the outer ends of the pockets formed by such panels. The loose panel wall 6 of Fig. 2 is placed between and will slide loosely along the folds of panels 2, 3, and panels 3, 4, such folds in the panels serving as runways for loose panel wall 6. The hooks 7 of panel 6 extend through slots 8 in panels 2 for a limited movement lengthwise of the panels and in said runways. I provide a predetermined median folding line F in main panel 4 and in loose panel 6. This line is preferably in the form of a built-in groove. The panel is made of a material like leather, of a grade that is flexible and springy. With the folding lines F built in as a groove, panels 4 and 6 will have a definite function to always fold on such lines F unless something prevents, whenever one folds the panels together in use. In the composite unit of Fig. 3, even though loose panel 6 has shifted so the lines F are not coinciding at the time of folding one half on the other, loose panel 6 will shift automatically in its runways so that the lines F will coincide during the folding operation. Of course lines F may be provided as predetermined folding lines in any of the various ways known to leather workers. The bill fold of Fig. 3, which is only one element of my present invention, will operate generally like the complete bill fold of my prior

Patents Nos. 1,866,618 and 2,011,846. There is a difference in the construction, such as the curved or angularly sloping end edges to which I will refer, such edges having a function in my present combination which I will specifically point out.

The slightly larger bill fold of Fig. 4 may be made like that of Fig. 3. The difference in size is arranged so that the smaller one may be nested in the larger one and when nested will preferably have a limited longitudinal sliding movement, but not enough to bring either end inside the extent of the top opening of the larger bill fold. When nested the inner bill fold will not fall out.

Corresponding panels in the structure in Fig. 4 bear the same reference numerals as in Fig. 3, except those of the larger structure are primed. The larger structure as shown has its end edges on a slightly different curvature than those of Fig. 3. Specific reference to this difference and its function will be referred to later. In addition, the larger structure has decorative strips 9 on its loose panel 6'. The lines 10 represent the open end of little pockets formed in panels 3'. The lines 11 represent the ends of little partition walls in the pockets. The latter may be formed by cutting into layers the leather of panels 3' back to the end edges from lines 10. Partition walls 11 may then be inserted and bound in by stitches 5' after the panels are folded to form the structure. Other than these differences the larger bill fold of Fig. 4 is preferably built like Fig. 3 and already described.

To make the bill folds or envelopes nest, the smaller one of Fig. 3 may be canted with one curved end pushed into and toward the end of the open compartment of the larger bill fold of Fig. 4. Then, by pushing down, the other curved end will cam its way into the opposite inside end of the larger bill fold. Or the smaller bill fold may be folded just enough to shorten its overall length a little, inserted through the top opening of the larger bill fold, and released to spring into nested position on account of the resiliency and tendency of the material to stay flat. In this canting or folding slightly for assembly there is an ease of operation and lack of special attention necessary as compared to other ways of getting the nested result to which I will refer.

It should be noted that when the two bill folds are assembled in-nested position and folded together, the walls that are folded all have built-in median folding grooves as F, or instead of such built-in grooves, central lines of fold may be provided by folding along the central line or in

other ways with or without grooves. This makes the subsequent folding actions easy and central as wanted. Otherwise, there would be objectionable bulk due to distortion, as where the folding lines do not coincide. In my construction they automatically coincide. The loose panels are shiftable longitudinally; the panels 2, 3, and 4 are acting to prevent folding of panels 5 and 6' except on their grooves because if they tend to fold it is easier to shift and then fold on the groove line. Where the outer or back wall has a predetermined central line of fold, the panel 6, being stiff enough and being braced in the runways provided by the folds of panels 2, 3, and 4, will shift to the right folding position. And the smaller bill fold, when nested, will do the same. The two bill folds when safely nested as one, embody in the form shown three main compartments, while each of the nested elements alone has only one main compartment. The combination of the two nested bill folds with all its main compartments, however, folds up in spite of its thickness, with all grooves coinciding and thus quite easily, and with as flat a folded condition as possible. This is important in multi-compartment bill folds and the importance increases as the number of compartments increases and as the thickness of the compartment contents in use increases. In my construction the contents, as many bills in all compartments, may be folded very conveniently and in remarkably good fashion to minimize the bulk.

The smaller bill fold in the combination is seen from Fig. 5 to be oppositely arranged, that is with its open side or edge bottomed adjacent the closed edge of the larger one. In this position it serves as a secret pocket for the larger bill fold but without being fastened in any way to the latter so as to make it necessary to use both when only one is wanted. In their assembled position the inner bill fold can be deliberately taken out and completely away from the larger bill fold, because the inner bill fold is intentionally made entirely separable so that it can be easily handled when desired, entirely apart from the main or larger bill fold. One importance of this feature is in the way to carry large denomination bills in the secret pocket of the main bill fold as arranged in Fig. 5, without a chance of displaying them in the ordinary course of casually handling small bills within the main bill fold. When the time comes to use the large bills, the secret pocket being entirely separable from the large bill fold, the handling, as distinguished from storage, of the large bills is possible without the cumbersome handling of the main bill fold with its contents at the same time. By complete separation the attention can be concentrated on the one thing—the secret pocket bill fold and its contents apart from everything else.

The taking out of the small bill fold from the position of Fig. 5 by the cam action of the end curves is a little easier by reason of the difference in the curve *a* as compared to *b*, see Fig. 3. This difference makes it easier to cam curve *b* by point *c* in the removal than if curve *a* were uppermost in the assembly, the curve *a* being a little shorter and steeper than curve *b*. The same result can be obtained by arranging cam angled edges instead of curves. Thus, as a secret pocket the smaller bill fold of Fig. 3 is easier to remove from the larger bill fold of Fig. 4. When used, not as a secret pocket, but right side up, there is no

occasion to remove the inner bill fold in the regular course of using the combination.

The combination has a variety of other advantages than that one of having a very convenient secret pocket for large bills in the main bill fold. For example, these bill folds being ordinarily made of leather may have different finishes. The smaller one may be made of less rugged appearance and less gauge than the larger, and thinner of course. Thus, a man may use the small one alone with dress clothes; the larger one alone with business clothes when he may not need any secret pocket; in combination with the smaller one, open side up, for ordinary large capacity multi-pocket bill fold, and open side down, as in Fig. 4, for secret pocket purposes as referred to above. In the large capacity multi-pocket bill fold there is a distinct advantage in the manner in which the bill fold and its contents will fold into small bulk relatively to other constructions.

When the inner bill fold utility of providing a secret pocket in the main bill fold is not needed, there is a definite utility nevertheless for the inner bill fold. This utility is its action within the main bill fold as a partition. In some bill fold constructions within the scope of the present invention, I now disclose the plan to provide a bill fold partition having the form shown in Fig. 6. This may be made of a single stiff but flexible sheet, of leather for example. It can be inserted or removed from the main bill fold as described in connection with such a partition in the form of a smaller bill fold. As a partition alone, the element of Fig. 6, divided by a median fold line into panel parts 12 and 13, combines with advantage to the manufacturer and user with the main bill fold of Fig. 4. When placed therein it will fold correctly with the main bill fold; it will stay put practically as well as if sewed in place; its ends will be hidden as if it were permanently attached, but it will work better than if restrained by attachments. The manufacturer will find it of economic advantage to assemble or put it in place for the multi-partitioned bill fold. The user will find it very convenient to take it out and put it in himself as he wants a simpler or less simple (multi-partitioned) bill fold at various times.

Instead of having the ends of the main bill fold and its companion element (either in the form of a secret pocket or a partition element) curved as shown, one could have them at right or other angles to the upper and lower edges. Then the opening of the main bill fold should be made restricted enough so the smaller element would have its ends tucked into short pockets beyond the ends of such restricted opening. This modified construction is shown in a previously filed application Serial No. 198,179, filed March 26, 1938, of which the present application is a continuation in part. The present application with the feature of the curved ends discloses the form of my invention which at present I consider the preferred and best form known to me for putting the invention to practice, and I point out in the following claims what I consider as my invention in the premises.

I claim:

1. The combination for a bill fold of two envelopes of different sizes to nest one within the other, both envelopes made up as bill folds with a line of fold in their walls for folding at their central dividing lines, the larger one having its open side constricted enough to prevent direct insertion of the smaller one but having a recess ex-

tension of its open compartment adjacent one end at least of its open side so that the smaller envelope can be inserted either from a canted position or slightly folded condition and then nested by straightening out entirely within the larger envelope.

2. The combination of claim 1 in which there is a recess from the open compartment of the larger envelope adjacent each end of the open side to that compartment.

3. The combination of claim 1 in which the inner walls of each bill fold are made up of a large panel only slightly smaller than the outer wall and held in relatively shiftable position within runways provided by short panel walls attached at the bottom edge of the outer wall and in other panels attached at their top edges to said short panels adjacent the top edge of the outer wall, in which runways said large panel may slide to automatically center its folding groove with those of other walls.

4. The combination of claim 1 made up with the smaller envelope nested in the larger envelope and with the closed edge of the smaller envelope adjacent the open edge of the larger envelope in their nested assembly.

5. The combination of claim 1 in which the end edges of the smaller envelope are formed as cam edges and the ends of the larger envelope are curved outwardly from the ends of the top opening to the end points of the bottom edge.

6. An envelope made of stiff but flexible material, leather for example, comprising a back wall and top and bottom runways formed by panel portions attached to the back wall, said runways having oppositely arranged open ends facing each other from spaced positions on opposite sides of the central dividing line of the back wall, a panel loosely mounted with its ends in said opposite runways and shiftable longitudinally in said runways within predetermined limits, said loosely mounted panel nearly filling the runways and always bridging the space between the open ends thereof, said runways and panel therein forming a composite inner wall for the envelope, the attached end edges of said outer and inner wall being curved outwardly, with the open edge of the envelope substantially less in length than the overall length of the envelope, a second and smaller envelope of like construction made to nest within the larger envelope and entirely separable therefrom when desired, the end portions of the smaller envelope lying when in nested condition in the larger envelope far enough outwardly of its open edge to be retained against falling out, both outer walls and both composite inner walls of both envelopes having built-in folding grooves along their central dividing lines, all constructed to serve as a bill fold for the purposes described.

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