Dec. 6, 1949 J. N. LOWE 2,490,222

REINFORCED BAG HAVING FLEXIBLE COVER SMOOTHED BY ITS SECURING MEANS

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Fig. 1.

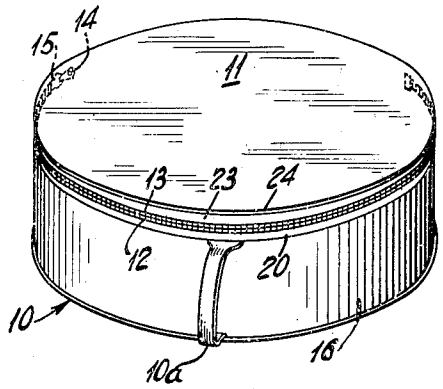


Fig. 2.

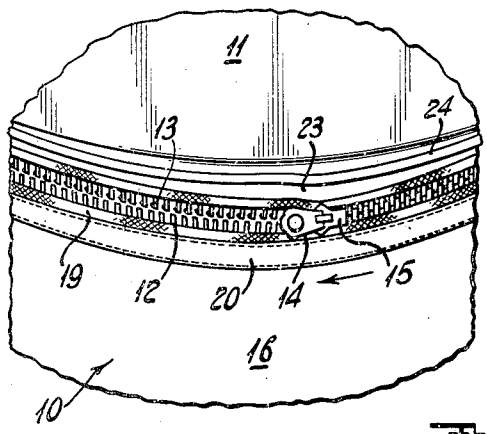


Fig. 3.

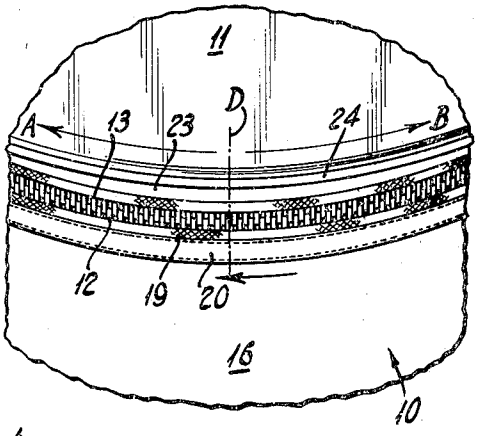
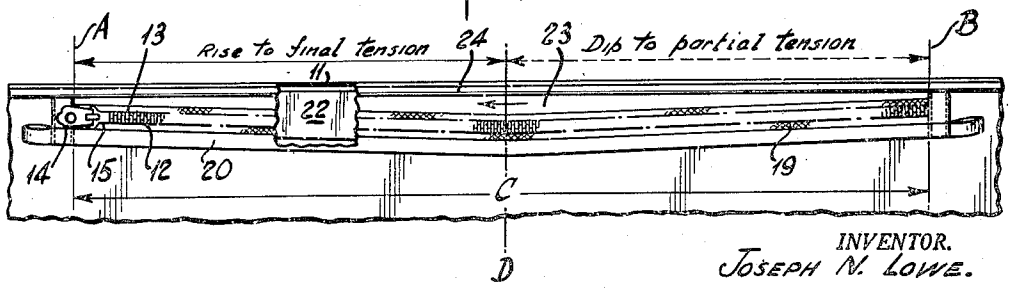


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR.
JOSEPH N. LOWE.

BY

Geo. S. Wheelock

ATTORNEY.

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Fig. 5.

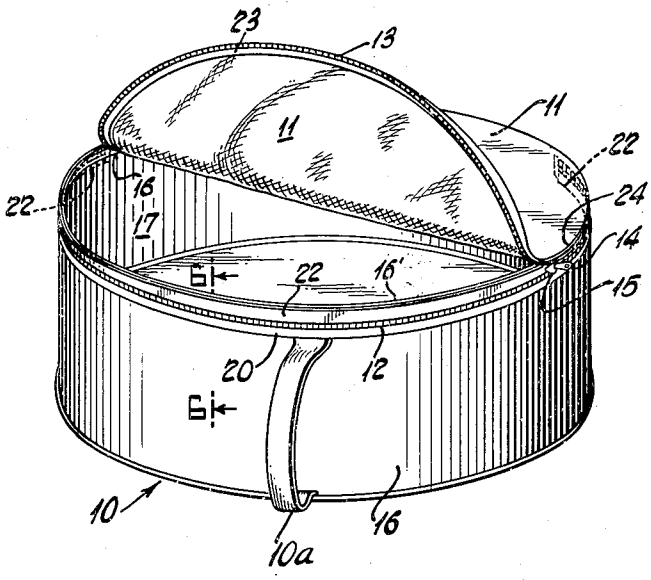
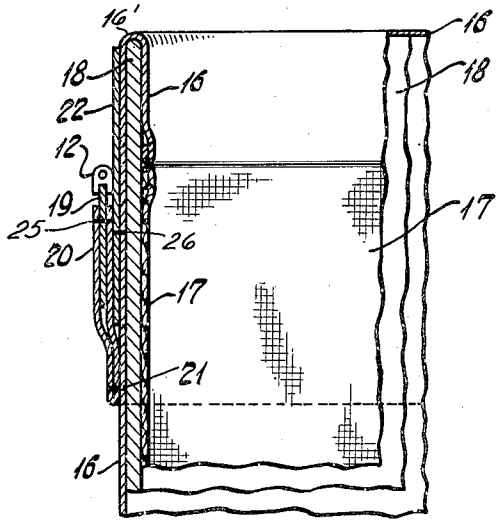


Fig. 6.



INVENTOR.
JOSEPH N. LOWE.

BY
Geo. S. Wheelock
ATTORNEY.

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2,490,222

REINFORCED BAG HAVING FLEXIBLE COVER SMOOTHED BY ITS SECURING MEANS

Joseph N. Lowe, New York, N. Y.

Application January 13, 1948, Serial No. 2,041

2 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

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In some aspects of the invention it embodies improvements upon the invention disclosed and claimed in U. S. Patent No. 2,282,409, dated May 12, 1942, although it is not necessarily restricted thereto.

Bags such as disclosed in said patent and other hand bags of like weight have proven efficient and desirable, but more or less they have not been as desirable as bags made in accordance with the present invention in so far as the flexible covers in their closed relation to the container bodies of the bags are concerned. The flexible covers of the prior bags, such as said patent discloses, have comprised side or top walls with peripheral rims or overlaps which overlap the adjacent edges of the bodies of the bags when the covers are fully closed, but said side walls have not always been uniformly taut and smooth when the covers are closed to correspond with the tautness and smoothness of the side walls or bottoms of the bags, the difficulty of making the bottoms taut and smooth having been much more easily overcome.

It is therefore a principal object of the present invention to provide bags with such cover securing means, as embody hookless fastenings or the like, that when the flexible covers of the bags are fully closed the side or top walls of the covers, which walls are opposite to the side walls or bottoms of the bags, will have been subjected to tension in such way that the side walls of the covers are made amply taut and smooth throughout. Other objects are to provide strong, durable, efficient and attractive lightweight luggage with a round, square or other desirable shape.

Briefly, the invention embraces a hand bag having the periphery of its main body reinforced throughout and a flexible overlapping cover hinged to the body, the securing means for the cover partly located on the overlap of the cover and partly on the reinforced periphery of the main body and extending a substantial distance around the bag, the portion of the cover securing means located on the body extending in a path which runs in opposite directions from the approximate mid-length of such closure portion, and the lengths of the path to each side of such mid-length converging towards the overlap of the cover, such cover securing means adapted to fully and tightly close and tension the cover in a continuous movement.

Having stated the nature and general objects of the invention in the preceding, the same will now be fully described and claimed with reference to the accompanying drawings showing a desirable embodiment of the invention, and wherein—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the bag in its closed condition;

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Fig. 2 is a broken away view of some of the bag sufficient to illustrate one condition thereof in closing the cover;

Fig. 3 is also a broken away view sufficient to show the condition of the bag when the cover is closed;

Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic flat development of important pieces of the bag, part of which is in section to illustrate a reinforcement;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the bag showing its cover partly open; and

Fig. 6 is an enlarged section on line 6–6 of Fig. 5.

Referring to the drawings exeept Fig. 4, which will be described later on herein, the hand bag or the like comprises a main container body 10 with a handle 10a and a hinge cover of flexible sheet material, such as leather for example, which has a side or top wall 11 corresponding to and in area with that of the opposite side or bottom wall of the bag body which usually is also composed of leather or the like.

The cover of the bag is adapted to be closed by hookless fastenings or the like 12, 13, the elements 12 thereof being located on the bag body and the co-operating elements 13 on the cover, the fastening having a tab or talon 14 and a slide 15 for operating the same.

The peripheral wall of the bag body 10 has an outer covering of leather or other flexible material 16 to furnish the finish of the bag body and make it attractive. Such flexible covering 16 extends from the side wall or bottom of the body to an edge 16' of the body where the cover is located, and at such edge the covering 16 is turned inwardly for a distance and is secured to the lining 17 of the body which may be of light form and ornamental fabric.

In the free space provided between the covering material 16 and the lining 17 the peripheral wall of the bag body is strongly reinforced for the depth thereof and entirely around it by means of stiff yet flexible sheets 18 of fiberboard or other suitable sheet material.

For attaching the hook elements 12 of the hookless fastening to the bag body by tape 19 the latter is sewed by stitching 25 within the fold of a longitudinally folded strip 20 of flexible material such as leather which strip is stitched at 21 to the covering of the bag body, and between the strip 20 and above its fold a backing-up strip 22 of fiberboard or other suitable reinforcing material may be secured longitudinally by a line of stitching 26 to the body covering 16 and which extends therealong below the fastener elements 12. Said backing-up strip 22 extends for about half of its width below the fastener elements 12 and the other half of its width extends to the fold of the covering 16 at the edge 16' of the bag body;

and as disclosed by aforesaid patent the function of said strip is to protect the said covering against defacement or injury by the hookless fastening.

Now referring to the cover of the bag, the flexible material thereof is provided at the edge of its side wall or top 11 with a narrow overlap or rim 23 which extends therealong to each side of the hinge of the cover and which is formed with a bead 24, which at least extends for the length of such overlap, although preferably the bead extends entirely around the said side wall to make a proper finish to the bag, but as such additional extent is not necessary to the invention itself it is not shown. Therefore when hereinafter referring to the overlap or rim 23 and the bead 24 it is to be understood that the overlap and bead on the movable portion of the cover are intended.

Fig. 4 will now be referred to in addition to the other figures of the drawings in order to more fully disclose the construction and its functions, said figure being a graphic development of particular features of the invention as if laid out flat.

The hookless fastening 12, 13, extends for a substantial distance around the body of the bag, as shown in Fig. 1, to the limits indicated by the vertical lines A, B, shown in the diagram, Fig. 4, the distance between said lines being indicated by a direct straight line C. As depicted by Fig. 4 the hookless fastening extends in two lengths in opposite direction from the approximate mid-length thereof, indicated by vertical line D, along paths which diverge from the mid-length and which slant toward the edge 16' of the bag body (see Fig. 5), and they slant toward the overlapping rim 23 of the cover when the same is closed. When the cover is closed the rim tapers gradually in opposite directions from the mid-length D while the bead 24 of the cover extends more or less on a line substantially parallel with the line C. This condition is apparent from Fig. 1 and the mid-length D, Fig. 4, corresponds substantially with the location of the handle.

The construction of the bag is sufficiently shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 for understanding what actually occurs in closing the cover by the hookless fastening. When the tab 14 of the fastening is pulled, as in Fig. 2, the fastening moves to the left and at a downward inclination until reaching the approximate point indicated by D in Fig. 4, the range of such movement being indicated in said figure by the legend, "Dip to partial tension." This means that the overlapping rim 23 of the cover has been pulled down through that range of movement and that partial tension has been given to the corresponding part of the flexible wall 11 of the cover. As closure of the cover up to line D has somewhat pulled the overlapping rim 23 toward the partially tensed part of the cover it is necessary that the remaining part of the cover be subjected to a final tension so that the flexible wall 11 of the cover will be placed under such tension as that it will be substantially as taut and smooth as the bottom of the bag.

Therefore, to finally close the cover from line D as indicated in Fig. 3 the remainder of the hookless fastening is moved to slant away from line C, Fig. 4, until the limit A is reached, such action being indicated on said diagram by the legend, "Rise to final tension." What happens is that the remainder of the overlap 23 of the cover is gradually and snugly pulled down over the bag body and this imparts the final tension on the wall 11 thereof.

As a matter of fact, the overlap 23 of the cover is actually pulled down directly onto the outer surface of the backing-up strip 22, the exposed portion of which at the mouth of the bag tapers in both directions away from its approximate mid-length as shown in Fig. 5.

From the drawings and description herein it should now be clear that one continuous operation of the hookless fastening may be used if desired in order to impart the required taut tension on the cover in closing it.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the invention may be more or less modified and still be within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim as new is:

1. A hand bag having a main container body formed of stiff material and open on one side, a cover of flexible material for said open side, a hookless fastening extending partly around said body for separably securing the cover in closed position on said body, the peripheral margin of said body adjacent said open side being stiff to resist pressure, said hookless fastening comprising a row of fastener elements attached to said body in spaced and non-parallel relation to the edge of said body adjacent said open side, the spacing of a middle portion of said row of fastener elements being greater than the spacing of terminal portions, the cover including a flexible flange of uniform depth when unstretched, the unstretched depth of said flange being less than said spacing of the terminal portions of said row of body attached fastener elements, and said hookless fastening further comprising a row of fastener elements secured to a free edge of said cover flange and engageable with said first named row of fastener elements to stretch said flange and tension said cover, whereby the cover is smoothed throughout its entire area when fully closed by the hookless fastening.

2. A hand bag having a main container body open on one side, a peripheral wall of the body being reinforced throughout, a flexible cover hinged to the body adjacent said open side and having a flexible peripheral flange, complementary cover securing means extending partly around said wall and having one part located on a free edge of the cover flange, and another part located on said wall in spaced and non-parallel relation to an edge of said wall adjacent said open side, that part of the cover securing means located on the wall having its mid-portion spaced further from said wall edge than its terminal portions, and said cover flange and that part of the cover securing means thereon having a combined depth which measures less than the distance between said wall edge and that part of the cover securing means on said wall, said cover securing means, when its parts are joined, fully and tightly closing and stretching the cover so as to smooth that portion of the cover which lies over said open side.

JOSEPH N. LOWE.

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

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