

July 28, 1942.

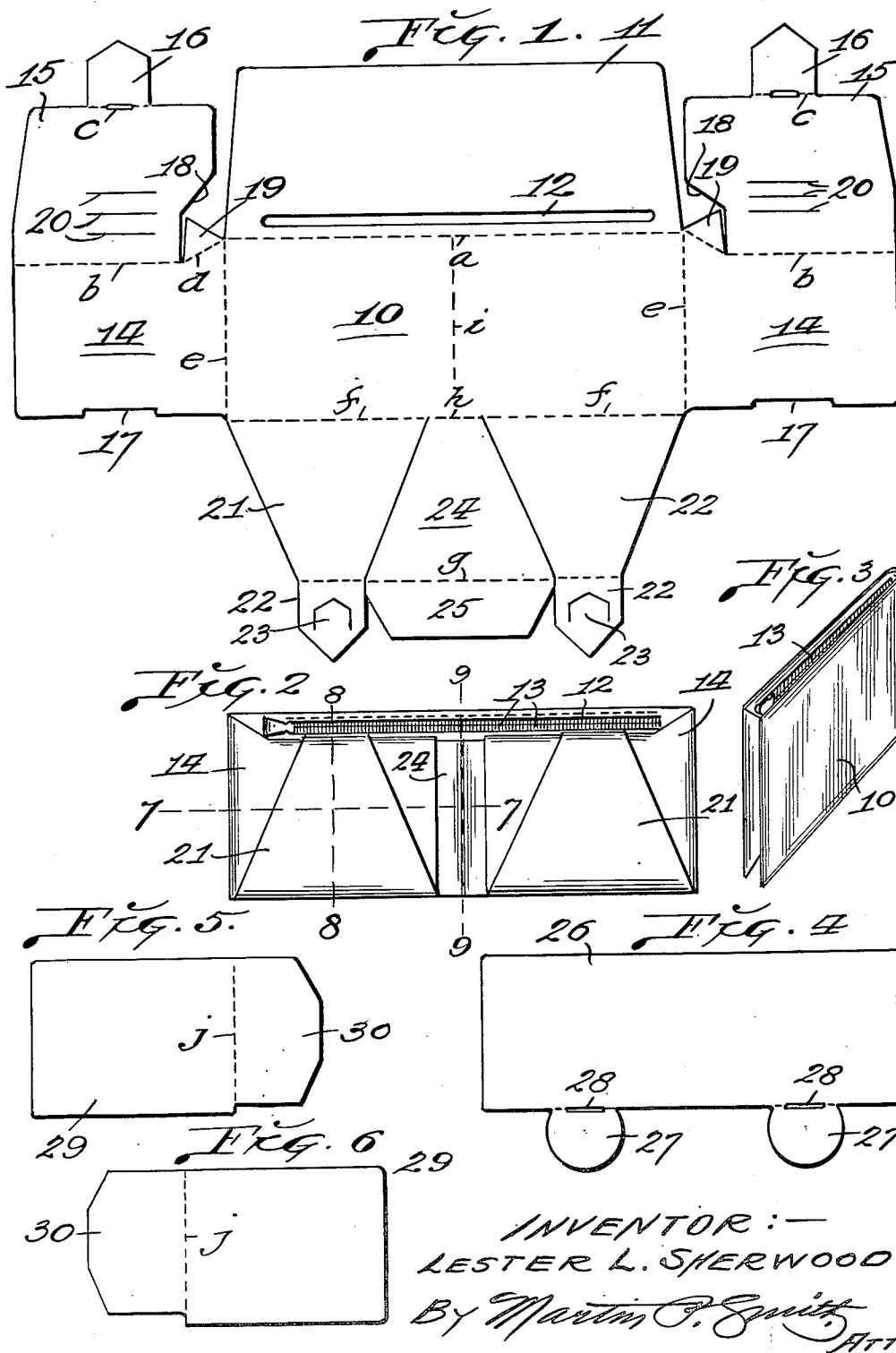
L. L. SHERWOOD

2,291,259

BILLFOLD

Filed May 31, 1941

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



July 28, 1942.

L. L. SHERWOOD

2,291,259

BILLFOLD

Filed May 31, 1941

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 7.

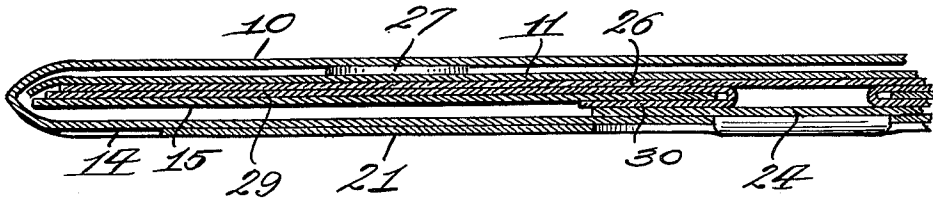


Fig. 8.

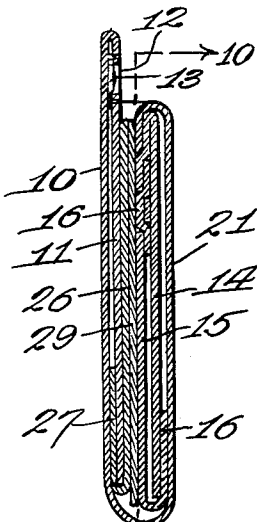


Fig. 9.

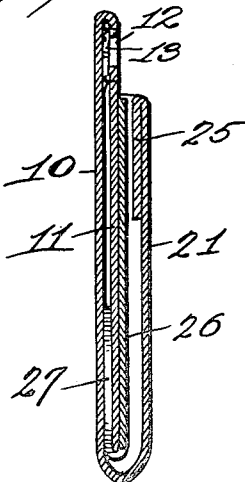


Fig. 10.

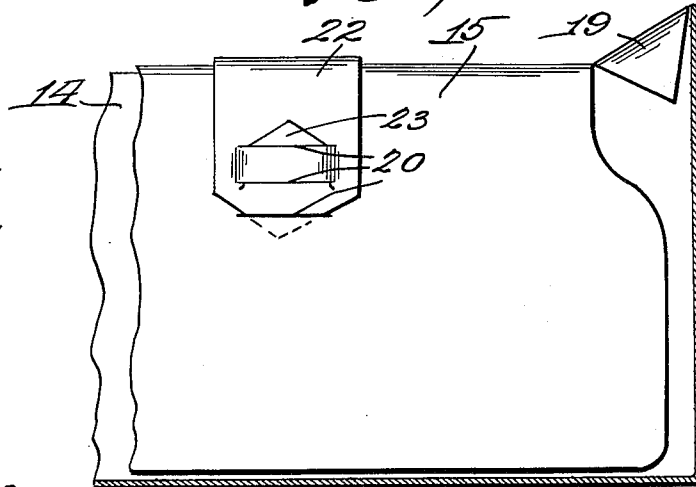
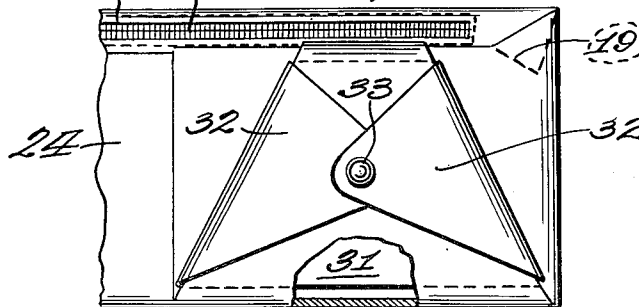


Fig. 11.



INVENTOR:-
LESTER L. SHERWOOD.
BY *Morton C. Smith*, ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,291,259

BILLFOLD

Lester L. Sherwood, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application May 31, 1941, Serial No. 396,054

7 Claims. (Cl. 150—38)

My invention relates to a bill fold of the type adapted to be conveniently received and carried in the pocket and which serves as a depository for paper currency, checks, cards, stamps, coins, and the like, and the principal object of my invention is, to provide a bill fold wherein the main body thereof including the flaps and extensions that are folded to provide pockets are formed from a single piece of thin, flexible material, such as leather, and the various parts of the structure maintaining their folded positions without fastening and securing means such as seams of stitched thread, leather or cord lacings, or the like.

A further object of my invention is, to provide a bill fold of the character referred to wherein certain of the parts that are folded to form walls which define and form pockets, are maintained in their folded positions by tongues that enter slits formed in adjacent walls and other walls being held in their functioning positions as a result of their being disposed between two adjacent walls.

A further object of my invention is, to provide a bill fold that includes a number of separately formed pieces of thin, flexible material, such as leather, that are capable of being inserted in the fold to form additional pockets, or at the option of the user of the bill fold these separately formed parts may be dispensed with.

A further object of my invention is, to provide a bill fold having a pocket for the reception of paper currency, checks, and the like, and the opening into said pocket being fitted with a conventional slide actuated closure employing small inter-engaging fingers of metal, thus effectually preventing the displacement and loss of bills, checks, etc., from said pocket while the fastening means is in position to close the opening into said pocket.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts that will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the section of flexible material that forms the main body of the bill fold, the same being shown in flat, unfolded condition, and with the lines on which the parts of the bill fold are folded, shown by dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is an elevational view looking against the inner face of the bill fold before the same is folded double for insertion in the pocket.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the bill fold in folded condition.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a separately formed piece of flexible material that is adapted to be positioned in the bill fold to provide a pair of additional pockets.

Figs. 5 and 6 are plan views of a pair of separately formed pieces of flexible material adapted to be inserted in the bill fold to provide additional pockets.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged longitudinal section taken approximately on the line 7—7 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged vertical section taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 9 is an enlarged vertical section taken on the line 9—9 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 10 is a vertical section taken approximately on the line 10—10 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 11 is an elevational view of a part of the bill fold looking against the inner face thereof before the same is finally folded for insertion into the pocket and showing a separately formed member applied to one of the walls of the bill fold to provide a pocket for the reception of coins, stamps, and the like.

As illustrated in Fig. 1 the main body of the bill fold including the outer wall and those portions that are folded into position in front of the outer wall to form pockets, are constructed from a single piece of thin, flexible material, preferably leather, and a rectangular portion 10 of this piece of material and which has a length approximately twice its width forms the outer wall of the completed bill fold.

A substantially rectangular section 11 of the material which has a length approximately equal to the length of the outer wall section 10 and a width slightly less than the width of said outer wall projects from the upper edge of the outer wall section and this section 11 folds along the dotted line *a* onto the inner face of the section 10 that forms the outer wall, thereby providing an elongated pocket between the walls 10 and 11 and which pocket is adapted to receive paper currency, checks, and the like.

Formed in the inner wall member 11 adjacent and parallel on the line of fold *a* is a longitudinally disposed slot 12 that provides an opening into the upper portion of the pocket between the two walls and secured to the edges of the material adjacent this opening are the complementary members of a conventional slide fastener 13 having inter-engaging rows of hooks.

In some instances, it may be found desirable to dispense with the slot 12 and fastening means

13, and where such construction is used the space between the walls 10 and 11 provide a blind or secret pocket for the reception of bank notes, checks, and the like, and in order to gain access to this pocket the free edge of the wall 11 must be pulled upwardly a sufficient distance to permit the contents of the pocket to be removed and inserted.

Projecting from both ends of the member 10 forming the outer wall of the bill fold are substantially rectangular sections 14 of material, each having a length slightly less than half the length of wall 10 and the width of each section 14 being less than the width of said wall 10.

Projecting from the upper edge of each section 14 is a substantially rectangular section 15 which is adapted to fold downwardly along the dotted line *b* onto the section 14 and the space between these sections 14 and 15 provide a pocket open at both ends and the length of which is less than half the length of the pocket between the walls 10 and 11.

To connect the lower edge of the wall 15 when folded onto wall 14 to the lower edge of the latter, a tongue 16 projects from the edge of wall 15 opposite the line of fold *b*, and after the wall 15 has been folded onto wall 14 this tongue is folded along the dotted line *c* so as to occupy a position on the opposite side of the wall 14 from wall 15. In order to accommodate this tongue 16, the lower edge of wall 15 is provided with a narrow notch 17.

A portion of each wall 15 adjacent the corner where wall 14 unites with the upper corner of wall 10 is cut away as designated by 18 and a small triangular portion of the material just below this notch provides a reinforcing tab 19 which is folded onto and secured to the upper inner corner of the wall 14, thus providing a reinforcement for that portion of the wall 14 that is disposed at the end of the opening between the walls 11 and 10 and 15 and 14 when the bill fold is completely folded for use. This tab 19 folds downwardly onto wall 14 along the dotted line *d* and said tab being secured in its folded position by suitable adhesive.

After the tabs 19 have been folded and secured to the walls 14 and walls 15 have been folded downwardly onto the walls 14 and the tongues 16 positioned behind walls 14, the pairs of walls 14 and 15 so folded are folded along the lines *e* so as to overlie the end portions of wall 11 that overlie the inner face of back wall 10.

Formed in each wall 15 midway between its ends is a plurality of spaced slits 20, the same being disposed parallel with the lines of fold *b* and likewise parallel with the free longitudinal edges of said walls.

A pair of identical substantially triangular walls 21 are connected to the lower edge of the back wall 10 and the lower end of each of these walls 21 terminates in a short tab 22, the central portion thereof being cut or slit to form a small tab 23 that is oppositely disposed with respect to the tab 22 in which it is formed.

After the folded walls 14 and 15 have been folded over onto the end portions of wall 11, which latter was previously folded onto the inner face of back wall 10, the triangular walls 21 are folded upwardly along the dotted lines *f* so as to overlie the outer faces of the walls 14, and to retain the walls 21 in such folded positions the ends of the tabs 23 are inserted through certain of the slits 20 in the walls 15 and the smaller

tabs 23 are inserted in the opposite direction through other of said slits 20.

The apex portion of the substantially triangular piece of material 24 between the walls 21 is connected to the central portion of the lower edge of back wall 10 and that portion 25 of said portion 24 that is positioned between the tabs 22 is adapted to fold over onto the adjacent face of portion 24 along the dotted line *g*. After the folded walls 14 and 15 have been folded inwardly and downwardly onto the ends of the back wall 10, the narrow portion 25 is folded over onto the adjacent end of portion 24 and these parts are then folded on the dotted line *h* upwardly onto the central portion of wall 11 that lies on back wall 10, with the sides of said portions 24 and 25 projecting between the inner edges of the folded walls 14 and 15.

The spaces between the walls 14 and 15 into which the sides of the portions 24 and 25 project may function as pockets for the reception of cards, tickets, and the like.

When the various parts of the one-piece structure have been properly folded as just described to form the finished bill fold, the latter when open for the reception or removal of bills, checks, cards, and the like, appears as illustrated in Fig. 2, and when completely folded so as to be carried in the pocket the bi-lateral portions of the bill fold are folded together along the medial line *i* so that the completely folded structure has the appearance as illustrated in Fig. 3.

The space between the wall 11 that lies in front of the back wall 10 and which combines therewith to form a secret pocket and the front members of the bill fold comprising the folded walls 14, 15, 21 and 24, may be divided to form a pair of pockets extending the entire length of the bill fold by inserting immediately in front of the wall 11 a substantially rectangular partition wall 26 of thin, flexible material, such as leather.

To retain this partition wall in position, tabs 27 project from the lower edge of said partition wall and after insertion of the latter these tabs are folded upwardly along slits 28 so as to occupy positions behind the lower edge of wall 11.

In order to provide short open topped pockets in the bi-lateral portions of the bill fold for the reception of cards, tickets, and the like, substantially rectangular walls 29 of flexible material, such as leather, and the size of which approximates that of the walls 14, are provided at one end with a flap 30 foldable on the dotted line *j* and these walls may be inserted in the end portions of the pocket or space between the wall 11 and the walls 15 with the flaps 30 inserted between the inner ends of the walls 15 and the side portions of the parts 24 and 25 that are inserted between the inner end portions of walls 14 and 15.

In order to provide a pocket or compartment for receiving and holding coins, stamps, and the like, and which compartment is capable of being readily opened and closed, a section 31 of leather or other flexible material is positioned beneath one of the walls 21 and the triangular end portions 32 of this inserted piece of material are brought together over the outer face of the wall 21 and detachably secured to each other by a readily releasable fastening device 33, such as a conventional snap fastener.

When the ends of this member 31 are connected to each other, a pocket or compartment that is closed on all sides is provided between

the main body portion of the member 31 and the wall 21 to which it is applied (see Fig. 11).

Thus it will be seen that I have provided a bill fold that is relatively simple in construction, inexpensive of manufacture and very effective in performing the functions for which it is intended.

Particularly desirable features of my improved bill fold are, the construction whereby the main body of the bill fold is formed from a single piece of flexible material and the various walls and partitions in the bill fold being maintained in assembled relation without the requirement for extraneous fastening means, such as stitching with thread, or lacings of leather or cord.

A further desirable feature of my improved bill fold is the provision of extra walls or partitions which may, if desired, be readily associated with the permanent walls of the fold in providing additional pockets adapted to receive articles generally carried in bill folds.

It will be understood that minor changes in the size, form and construction of the various parts of my improved bill fold, may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of my invention, the scope of which is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A bill fold formed from a single piece of thin, flexible material and comprising a back wall, a wall projecting from the upper edge of said back wall downwardly against the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the ends of said back wall inwardly over the end portions of the wall that overlies the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the upper edges of the walls at the ends of said back wall downwardly between the wall that overlies the back wall and said end walls, there being a plurality of horizontally disposed slits formed in the central portion of said downwardly extending walls, means for detachably securing the lower edges of the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the end walls to the lower edges of the latter, spaced walls extending from the lower edge of the back wall upwardly over the outer faces of the end walls, tabs on the lower ends of said spaced walls, tabs cut from said first mentioned tabs and adapted to engage the slits in the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the end walls, a wall disposed between said spaced walls and extending upwardly over the central portion of the wall that projects downwardly from the top of the back wall and the sides of the wall that is arranged between said spaced walls projecting between the inner edges of the end walls and the walls that project downwardly from the upper edges thereof.

2. A bill fold as set forth in claim 1, with the wall that extends downwardly from the upper edge of the back wall being provided in its upper portion with a longitudinally disposed slot and readily releasable slide fastening means for normally closing said slot.

3. A bill fold as set forth in claim 1, with a separately formed wall of thin, flexible material positioned in front of the wall that projects downwardly from the upper edge of the back wall and tabs extending upwardly from the lower edge of said separately formed wall, which tabs are positioned between the back wall and the wall that is extended downwardly from the upper edge of said back wall.

4. A bill fold formed from a single piece of

thin, flexible material and comprising a back wall, a wall projecting from the upper edge of said back wall downwardly against the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the ends of said back wall inwardly over the end portions of the wall that overlies the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the upper edges of the walls at the ends of said back wall downwardly between the wall that overlies the back wall and said end walls, means for detachably securing the lower edges of the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the end walls to the lower edges of the latter, spaced walls extending from the lower edge of the back wall upwardly over the outer faces of the end walls, a wall disposed between said spaced walls and extending upwardly over the central portion of the wall that projects downwardly from the top of the back wall, the sides of the wall that is arranged between said spaced walls projecting between the inner edges of the end walls and the walls that project downwardly from the upper edges thereof, separately formed walls positioned between the end portions of the wall that projects downwardly from the upper edge of the back wall and the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the inwardly folded end walls and with portions at the inner ends of said separately formed walls positioned between the inner end portions of said end walls and the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges thereof.

5. A bill fold formed from a single piece of thin, flexible material and comprising a back wall, a wall projecting from the upper edge of said back wall downwardly against the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the ends of said back wall inwardly over the end portions of the wall that overlies the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the upper edges of the walls at the ends of said back wall downwardly between the wall that overlies the back wall and said end walls, means for detachably securing the lower edges of the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the end walls to the lower edges of the latter, spaced walls extending from the lower edge of the back wall upwardly over the outer faces of the end walls, a wall disposed between said spaced walls and extending upwardly over the central portion of the wall that projects downwardly from the top of the back wall, the sides of the wall that is arranged between said spaced walls projecting between the inner edges of the end walls and the walls that project downwardly from the upper edges thereof, a separately formed wall positioned behind one of the spaced walls that extend upwardly from the lower edge of the back wall, the end portions of which separately formed wall overlap each other in front of the wall behind which the separately formed wall is positioned and readily detachable means for securing said overlapping portions to each other.

6. A bill fold formed from a single piece of thin, flexible material and comprising a back wall, a wall projecting from the upper edge of said back wall downwardly against the inner face of said back wall, there being a longitudinally disposed slot formed in the wall that projects downwardly from the upper edge of said back wall, readily releasable slide fastening means for normally closing said slot, walls extending from the ends of said back wall inwardly over the end portions of the wall that overlies

the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the upper edges of the walls at the ends of said back wall downwardly between the wall that overlies the back wall and said end walls, means for detachably securing the lower edges of the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the end walls to the lower edges of the latter, spaced walls extending from the lower edge of the back wall upwardly over the outer faces of the end walls, a wall disposed between said spaced walls and extending upwardly over the central portion of the wall that projects downwardly from the top of the back wall, the sides of the wall that is arranged between said spaced walls projecting between the inner edges of the end walls and the walls that project downwardly from the upper edges thereof, with separately formed walls positioned between the end portions of the wall that projects downwardly from the upper edge of the back wall and the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the inwardly folded end walls and with portions at the inner ends of said separately formed walls positioned between the inner end portions of said end walls and the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges thereof.

7. A bill fold formed from a single piece of thin, flexible material and comprising a back wall, a wall projecting from the upper edge of said back wall downwardly against the inner face of said back wall, there being a longitu-

dinally disposed slot formed in the wall that projects downwardly from the upper edge of said back wall, readily releasable slide fastening means for normally closing said slot, walls extending from the ends of said back wall inwardly over the end portions of the wall that overlies the inner face of said back wall, walls extending from the upper edges of the walls at the ends of said back wall downwardly between the wall that overlies the back wall and said end walls, means for detachably securing the lower edges of the walls that extend downwardly from the upper edges of the end walls to the lower edges of the latter, spaced walls extending from the lower edge of the back wall upwardly over the outer faces of the end walls, a wall disposed between said spaced walls and extending upwardly over the central portion of the wall that projects downwardly from the top of the back wall, the sides of the wall that is arranged between said spaced walls projecting between the inner edges of the end walls and the walls that project downwardly from the upper edges thereof, a separately formed wall positioned behind one of the spaced walls that extend upwardly from the lower edge of the back wall, the end portions of which separately formed wall overlap each other in front of the wall behind which the separately formed wall is positioned and readily detachable means for securing said overlapping portions to each other.

LESTER L. SHERWOOD.