SELF-CLOSING WALLET

W. SCHIMELMITZ

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a self-closing wallet.

The invention has for an object the construction of a wallet which is characterized by a front layer of flexible material connected along its sides and bottom edges with a rear layer of flexible material, and a novel means mounted upon the edges of the open side of said wallet for normally urging these sides into a closed position.

More specifically the invention contemplates forming the top edge portion of each of the layers with an inwardly downwardly and upwardly bent portion forming a passage, and mounting a leaf spring strip within each passage in a manner so as to normally urge the open side of the wallet closed.

More specifically the invention proposes to characterize each leaf spring by a strip portion of concaved shape in cross section and having a finishing element mounted upon its ends, and said strips being mounted in said passages in a way so that the finishing elements engage the ends of the passages.

Still further the invention proposes the provision of lines of stitches along the end portions of the open sides of said wallet arranged in a way so as to finish the edges of the wallet and to form an abutment for the end portions of said springs.

Still further the invention proposes a novel arrangement by which the resiliency of the self-closing portion of the wallet may be varied at will.

Another object of this invention resides in the construction of a self-closing wallet which is simple and durable and which may be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a self-closing wallet constructed in accordance with this invention.

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

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the leaf spring strips, per se.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary elevational view of a wallet constructed according to a modification of this invention.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

The self-closing wallet in accordance with this invention includes a front layer of flexible material 10 and a rear layer of flexible material 11 secured together along the sides and bottom edges forming a wallet having an open top 12. These layers of material preferably comprise sheet leather or other material generally used in wallets. The sides and bottom edges are secured together in a particular fashion. The edge portions 10a and 11a of each of the layers of material are bent inwards. A strip of material 13 which is bent along its center to have side arm portions, is interposed between the inwardly bent portions 10a and 11a. A line of stitches 14 secures the arm portions of the strip 13 and the inwardly bent portions 10a and 11a together.

The parts may be easily amalgamated in the above fashion by first arranging the layers 10 and 11 with their outer faces towards each other and then placing the binding strip 13 in position between the edges of the layers, and then sewing the parts together, with stitches 14, and then finally turning the wallet inside out so that the outer faces of the layers 10 and 11 are now at the outside.

The top edge portions 15 of each of the layers 10 and 11 are bent inwards and downwards and then continue into upwardly bent portions 16. These portions 15 and 16 produce passages of the top edges of the layers 10 and 11. Leaf springs 17 are disposed within these passages.

Each leaf spring 17 comprises a strip of leaf spring material formed slightly curved in traverse cross section, as illustrated in Fig. 3. Finishing elements 18, such as metallic caps are engaged upon the ends of the leaf springs to enclose the same and prevent these edges from cutting the material of the layers 10 and 11. Each spring 17 is of a length substantially equal to the length of the passage in which it is placed.

The springs 17 are opposed to each other so that the concaved faces face each other, as illustrated in Fig. 2. It will be found that the springs 17 will keep the open side 12 of the wallet closed. The wallet may easily be opened by pressing together the opposed corners A and B, see Fig. 1 of the wallet so as to cause the springs 17 to buckle away from each other. Articles may
then be placed into or removed from the wallet. When the points A and B of the wallet are released the springs 17 return to their normal positions again closing the opening 12.

5 Lines of stitches 14 are sewed through the outer faces of the layers 10 and 11 of the wallet and serve to close the ends of the passages produced by the interturn edge portions 15 and 16.

In Figs. 6 and 7 a modified form of the invention has been disclosed which distinguishes from the prior form in the provision of a means by which the flexibility of the self-closing edges of the wallet may be varied. The wallet is constructed substantially the same as described in the previous form, and similar parts may be recognized by the identical reference numerals. However, in addition to the construction mentioned, each layer of the material forming the body of the wallet is provided with a holding strap 20. These straps 20 are secured at their inner ends 20 to the material of the wallet at a point immediately adjacent the upturned edge portion 16.

10 Each strap 20 extends downwards and around the bend of the portions 15 and 16 and up to a point between the portions 15. Each strap 20 is provided with a fastening element 21, such as a snap fastener, by which it is releasably connected with the adjacent material of the portion 15. An auxiliary leaf spring 17 constructed substantially identical to the leaf spring 17 is disposed into each space between the edge portion 16 and the adjacent layer of material of the wallet. The straps 20 hold these auxiliary strips 17 in position.

15 When the end portions of the wallet are pressed together it is possible to simultaneously bow the leaf springs at each of the sides of the opening 12 of the wallet, away from each other, so that the mouth 12 is opened. Then articles may be placed into or removed from the wallet. When these ends are released the opening 12 is automatically closed by the spring 11 and 17' straightening out.

20 However, when it is desired to change the resiliency of the leaf closing portions of the wallet, it is merely necessary to temporarily release the front ends of the straps 20 by disconnecting the fastening elements 21. Then the auxiliary spring 17 may be removed by slipping them downwards. Or, if it is desired to add to or stiffen the resilient action, additional auxiliary strips may be slipped upwards adjacent the springs 17'. The straps 20 may then be secured at their outer ends to hold the additional springs in position.

25 While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States letters of patent is:

1. A self-closing wallet, comprising a front layer of flexible material and a rear layer of flexible material secured together along their sides and bottom edges forming a wallet with an open top, the top edge portions of said layers being bent inwards, and the edges portions of said inwardly bent portions being bent upwards forming passages in the top edges of said layers, leaf spring strips within said passages, and an auxiliary leaf spring strip engaged in the space between said upwardly bent portion and the adjacent material of one of said layers, and straps mounted upon said layers and extended across said edge portions of the layers in a way to hold said auxiliary leaf springs releasably in position.

2. A self-closing wallet, comprising a front layer of flexible material and a rear layer of flexible material secured together along their sides and bottom edges forming a wallet with an open top, the top edge portions of said layers being bent inwards, and the edge portions of said inwardly bent portions being bent upwards forming passages in the top edges of said layers, leaf spring strips within said passages, and an auxiliary leaf spring strip engaged in the space between said upwardly bent portion and the adjacent material of one of said layers, and straps mounted upon said layers and extended across said edge portions of the layers in a way to hold said auxiliary leaf springs releasably in position, and fastening elements for holding the free ends of said straps.

3. A self-closing wallet, comprising a front layer of flexible material and a rear layer of flexible material secured together along their sides and bottom edges forming a wallet with an open top, said layers having their top edge portions bent inwards and continuing into portions bent upwards between the adjacent faces of said layers and said inwardly bent portions forming passages between said inwardly and upwardly bent portions across said open top, leaf spring strips mounted in said passages for holding said top closed, auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said upwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed, and auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said inwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed, and auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said upwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed, and auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said upwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed, and auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said upwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed.

4. A self-closing wallet, comprising a front layer of flexible material and a rear layer of flexible material secured together along their sides and bottom edges forming a wallet with an open top, said layers having their top edge portions bent inwards and continuing into portions bent upwards between the adjacent faces of said layers and said inwardly bent portions forming passages between said inwardly and upwardly bent portions across said open top, leaf spring strips mounted in said passages for holding said top closed, auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said upwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed, and auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said inwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed.

5. A self-closing wallet, comprising a front layer of flexible material and a rear layer of flexible material secured together along their sides and bottom edges forming a wallet with an open top, said layers having their top edge portions bent inwards and continuing into portions bent upwards between the adjacent faces of said layers and said inwardly bent portions forming passages between said inwardly and upwardly bent portions across said open top, leaf spring strips mounted in said passages for holding said top closed, and auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said inwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed.
top closed, auxiliary leaf spring strips disposed between the adjacent faces of said layers and said upwardly bent portions for assisting said strips in holding said top closed, and means for holding said auxiliary strips in position between the adjacent faces of said layers and said upwardly bent portions, comprising straps having one of their ends attached to the inside face of said layers and their free ends extended along the face of said inwardly bent portions, and means for releasably attaching the free ends of said straps to the adjacent face of its respective inwardly bent portions, comprising snap fastener elements mounted on the free ends of said straps and engageable with complementary snap fastener elements mounted on said inwardly bent portions.

WOLF SCHIMELMITZ.