April 24, 1951 M. BECKER 2,550,216

BILLFOLD CLOSURE DEVICE

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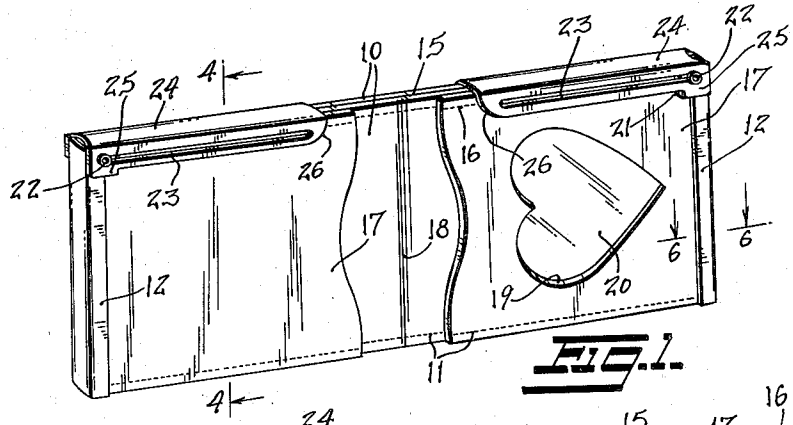


FIG. 1.

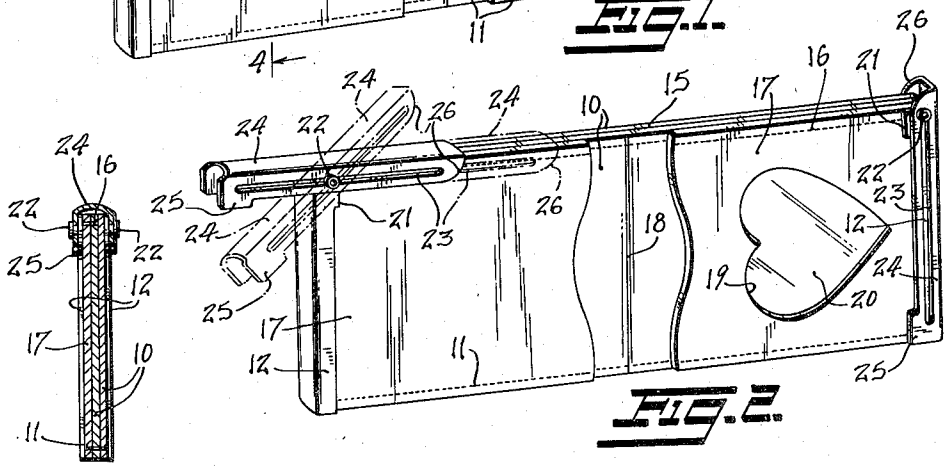


FIG. 2.

FIG. 4.

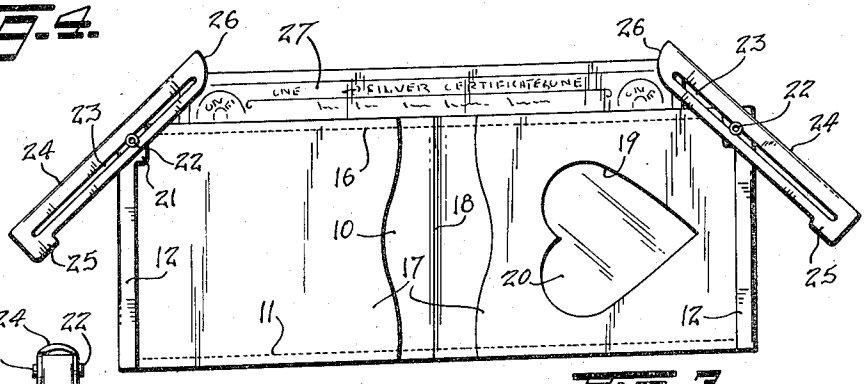


FIG. 3.

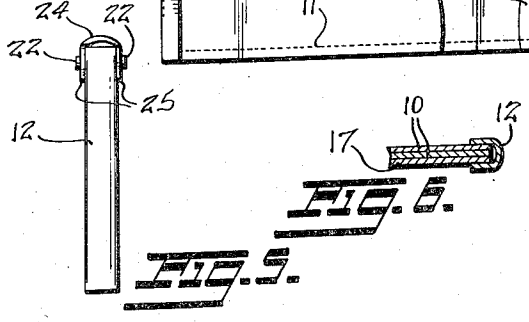


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

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BILLFOLD CLOSURE DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 150—38)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in billfolds or wallets and has for its principal object the provision of a wallet embodying improved safety means to prevent the accidental displacement of the contents thereof.

Another object of the invention is so to construct and arrange said safety means as for the same to act as an auxiliary binder for the ends of the wallet when said safety means is disabled as such, and the wallet is spread open to gain access to the contents thereof.

Still another object of the invention is so to construct and arrange said safety means as for the same to be capable of being utilized as guide means for removing or partially removing bills or the like from the wallet.

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

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

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the wallet of the invention with the safety means in effective position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the wallet with one half of the safety means moved to its auxiliary end binding position and the other half in the process of being moved to said position.

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the wallet with the safety means moved into position to guide the removal of bills from the wallet.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an end view of the wallet with the safety means in operative position.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view on line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 4 the wallet comprises a pair of rectangular sheets 10 of leather, leatherette, plastic or the like secured together along their lower edges by stitching 11 and at their end edges by metal edging channels 12 the side walls of which are secured together and to the sheets 10 by means of clamping or the like, bills and the like are placed in the pocket 15 between sheets 10.

In order to provide storage for identification cards, social security cards, business cards, etc., one of the sheets 10 has secured thereto by the stitching 11 and channels 12 and also by stitching 16 a pair of flaps 17 each of which extends from one end of the wallet to a point a little short of the center of fold line 18 thereof. One of the

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flaps 17 has a window 19 cut therein for viewing an identification card placed therebeneath. A transparent plastic inset 20 is provided for window 18 to protect the article placed therebeneath.

In usual manner, the wallet is folded on line 18 for insertion in the user's pocket, the flaps 17 being located inside of the folded wallet.

According to the invention the side walls of the edging channels 12 are widened at their upper ends as at 21 (Figs. 2 and 3), a rivet 22 passes through the widened portions of each channel 12 (Fig. 4) and also through longitudinal slots 23 in the side walls of a metal channel member 24, the heads of said rivets bearing loosely against said side walls.

The primary function of the channel members 24 is that of a safety device to prevent the inadvertent displacement of bills or the like from pocket 15. To this end the channel members 24 are positioned as shown in Fig. 1, the side walls thereof embracing the upper edge of the wallet for the greater part of its length. Thus the opening of pocket 15 is effectively closed against the accidental displacement of the contents of the latter. The side walls of the channel members 24 are, of course, spaced apart a distance appropriate for them to grip firmly the sheet 10 and the flaps 17 at the upper edges of the wallet.

When the wallet is spread open to remove the contents thereof great strain is placed on the ends theerof embraced by the edging channels 12. Therefore the secondary function of the channel members 24 is to act as auxiliary bindings for the ends of the wallet at such times. To this end the side walls of channel members are widened at their outer ends as at 25, said widened portions being sprung outward as shown in Fig. 5 to facilitate engagement of the channel members 24 over the edging channels 12 as the former are moved from their Fig. 1 positions to the position of the right hand one in Fig. 2; the left hand one in Fig. 2 being shown in several intermediate positions by means of dot and dash lines.

Thus the channel members not only are positioned out of the way to facilitate gaining access to the pocket 15, but also act as auxiliary binders for the ends of the wallet.

In order to prevent the snagging of the fingers or the cuffs on the upper ends of the channel members 24 when the latter are in their auxiliary edge binder positions as just above described, said upper ends are rounded as at 26 (Fig. 2).

The channel members 24 also have a tertiary

function, namely to guide bills or the like in their removal from the pocket 15. This function finds particular utility in leafing through a number of bills or the like to pick out a particular one. To this end the channel members 24 are positioned as shown in Fig. 3 so that the bills 27 can be partially removed from the pocket 15 to facilitate leafing therethrough, the upper ends of the members 24 guiding the upper ends of said bills. Due to the manner of mounting the members 24, namely the rivets 22 engaging the slots 23, this function can be accomplished with bills or the like of a wide range of sizes, the angular positions of the members being changed accordingly.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise construction 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 Patent is:

1. A wallet comprising a pair of superimposed rectangular sheets of flexible material secured together along their lower longitudinal edges and also along their end edges to form a pocket therebetween, said sheets being foldable about their vertical center line, a pair of flaps each secured along their upper, lower and outer edges to one of said sheets to form a pair of pockets opening at the center of the wallet, one on either side of said center line, a pair of channel members each to embrace the upper edges of said sheets and one of said flaps and thereby to close the first said pocket, a longitudinal slot in each side wall of each channel member, and a pair of rivets each passed through said sheets and one of said flaps at the upper outer corners thereof, each said rivet also passing through the slots in the associated channel member to secure said channel member to the wallet.

2. A wallet comprising a pair of superimposed rectangular sheets of flexible material secured together along their lower longitudinal edges and also along their end edges to form a pocket therebetween, said sheets being foldable about their vertical center line, a pair of flaps each secured along their upper, lower and outer edges to one of said sheets to form a pair of pockets opening at the center of the wallet, one on either side of said center line, a pair of edging channels binding the end edges of said sheets and the associated said flap together, a pair of channel members each to embrace the upper edges of said sheets and one of said flaps and thereby close the first said pocket, a longitudinal slot in each side wall of each channel member, and a pair of rivets each passed through one of said edging channels and the members embraced thereby near their upper ends, each said rivet also engaging in the slots in one of said channel members to adjustably secure the latter to the wallet, said channel members being slidable on said rivets to positions in which they do not close the first said pocket but embrace and reinforce said edging channels, the side walls of said channel members being widened and slightly spread at the outer ends of the members to facilitate engagement thereof over the edging channels.

3. A wallet comprising a pair of superimposed rectangular sheets of flexible material secured together along their lower longitudinal edges and also along their end edges to form a pocket therebetween, said sheets being foldable about their vertical center line, a pair of flaps each secured along their upper, lower and outer edges to one of said sheets to form a pair of pockets opening at the center of the wallet, one on either side of said center line, a pair of edging channels binding the end edges of said sheets and the associated said flap together, a pair of channel members each to embrace the upper edges of said sheets and one of said flaps and thereby close the first said pocket, a longitudinal slot in each side wall of each channel member, and a pair of rivets each passed through one of said edging channels and the members embraced thereby near their upper ends, each said rivet also engaging in the slots in one of said channel members to adjustably secure the latter to the wallet, said channel members being slidable on said rivets to positions in which they do not close the first said pocket but embrace and reinforce said edging channels, the side walls of said channel members being widened and slightly spread at the outer ends of the members to facilitate engagement thereof over the edging channels and rounded at their proximate ends to prevent snagging thereon when the members embrace the edging channels.

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