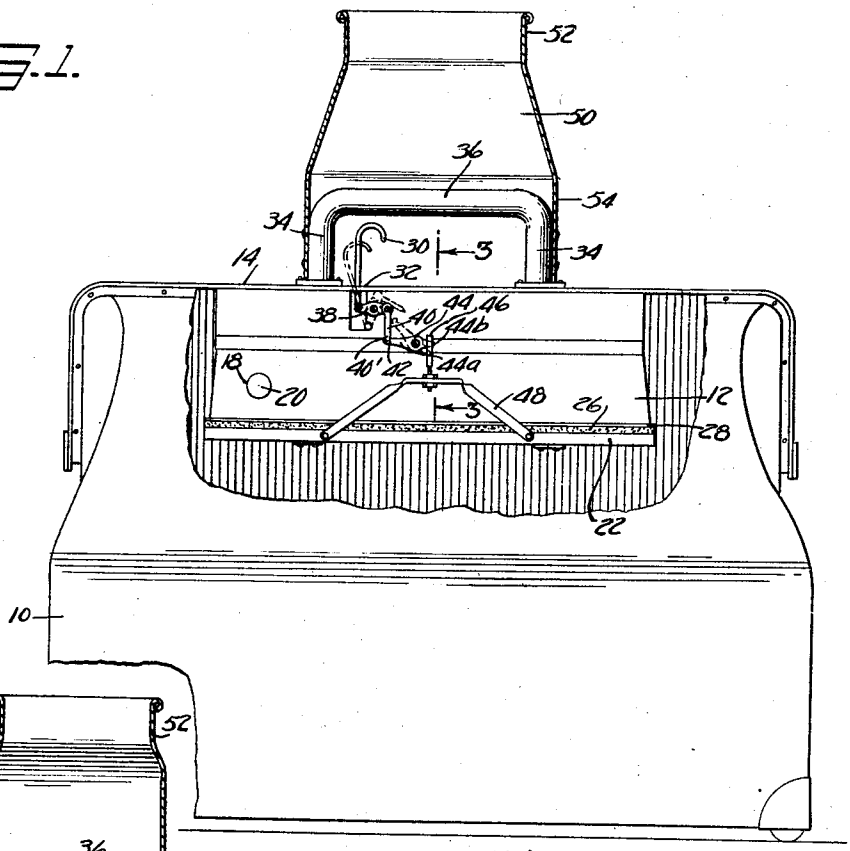
June 2, 1931. C. M. MORSSEN 1,808,248

ANTITHEFT DEVICE

Filed July 21, 1927

FIG. 1.



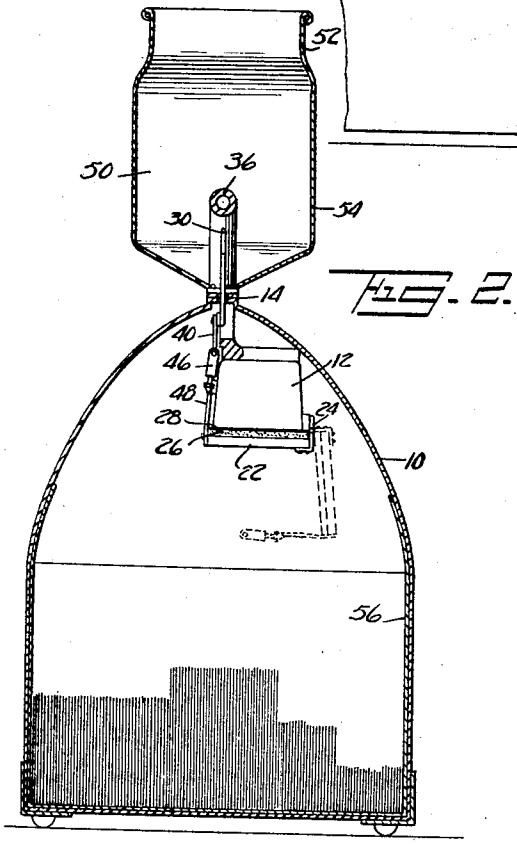
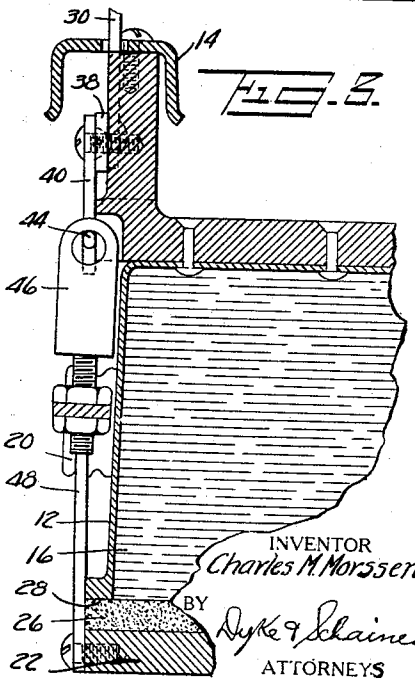


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.



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Patented June 2, 1931 1,808,248

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CHARLES M. MORSSEN, OF MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

ANTITHEFT DEVICE

Application filed July 21, 1927. Serial No. 207,552.

My invention relates to anti-theft devices, and particularly devices adapted for use by travelers, bank messengers, factory paymasters, stock-brokers, or other persons who transfer or deal with negotiable securities, bank-notes, bonds, and other papers of like valuable character.

It is the custom of banks, stock-brokers, factory paymasters, and the like, to transfer bank-notes, securities and other valuable papers from place to place in valises, suitcases, brief-cases, handbags, or similar receptacles. Despite all precautions taken in the transfer and handling of such valuables, bandits have found it easy to waylay bank messengers, payroll carriers and stock-brokers' messengers and rob them of the receptacles and their valuable contents, such robberies being frequently accompanied by heavy loss of life, particularly when rapid flight and escape of the bandits are practically certain with the use of high-powered automobiles.

It is an object of the invention to discourage and eliminate such robberies by equipping the receptacles in which valuable papers are transported, with a device which will deface the contents and render same non-transferable and unsalable the moment the receptacle is attempted to be stolen or leaves the possession of the carrier.

When valuables are first placed in the bag or receptacle for transportation purposes, the device is loaded so that if at any time before reaching the destination the bag leaves the hand of the carrier, the device functions and the contents of the bag are so defaced, mutilated, marked and stained as to be absolutely valueless to any person other than the owners. Upon reaching the destination safely, the device is rendered inoperative and the valuables removed from the bag by the transferee or owner. Furthermore, the defacing and staining are done in such manner that the securities, bank-notes, and the like, may be easily traced or identified by their owners.

One feature of the device is the provision of means on the exterior of the bag whereby the operation of the device to deface the contents of the bag cannot be hindered or interfered with by anyone from the outside of the bag while same is being transported, and the only way to prevent the defacing of the contents of the bag is by same being turned over to the owner or transferee thereof at the destination, untouched by anyone but the custodian or carrier of the bag.

Instead of maintaining the transfer of valuable papers in utmost secrecy and resorting in such transfer to the use of expensive armed guards, armored cars, and the like, it is an advantage of the present invention that the transfer of valuables in bags equipped with a device of my invention can be made with the utmost publicity, and dispensing with the use of such armed guards, armored trucks, and the like. Furthermore, the outside of the bag of my invention may be painted in vivid colors and conspicuously marked so as to give notice to the public in general and to bandits in particular that the bag contains valuable papers—valuable to the owner only, but valueless to all others once the bag leaves the hand of the carrier. The danger of robbery under those circumstances is minimized and practically obviated, because robbers will not jeopardize their lives and risk imprisonment to steal a bag which, when they get it into their possession, contains valuables which are absolutely worthless to them and cannot be transferred, sold or put into circulation. My invention does not prevent the stealing of the bag and its contents; it simply makes the contents of the bag absolutely worthless and useless when stolen, to the thief—or to anyone other than the owner thereof.

My invention preferably comprises a bag, valise, or the like, having a fluid container of large capacity suspended therein from the top. The fluid container is preferably filled with chemicals, ink, dye, or other desirable fluid which will readily deface or indelibly mark the contents of the bag in such a manner as to be readily identified as stolen property. The fluid container has a hinged door on its bottom, which, when opened, permits the entire contents of the container to instan-

taneously flood the bag and deluge the contents thereof. The opening of the container door is preferably controlled by a hook or other means located on the exterior of the bag near the handle thereof, which means is held in operative position by the carrier from the moment the valuables are placed in the bag until the moment the valuables are removed from the bag by the proper transferee at the destination. In the event of a hold-up, the carrier of the handbag by simply handing the bag over to the thief or permitting it to leave his possession, causes the device to function in the following manner: The fluid container door swings open very rapidly and all the fluid in said container instantaneously floods the bag and defaces the contents thereof in a manner to make said contents unfit for sale or for further use until replaced by the owner.

In order to insure the operation of the device the moment the carrier's finger releases the hook, and in order to obviate the possibility of a bandit grasping the hand of the carrier to prevent the hook being released, I preferably mount a shield rigidly around the bag handle, into which the hand of the carrier is inserted in order to grasp the handle of the bag and keep a finger on the hook of the device. So long as the carrier's hand is within the shield grasping the bag handle and the device control means, no one can hinder or interfere with the fuctioning of the device, and the only one who can prevent the functioning of the device is the proper custodian or carrier of the bag. The moment the carrier withdraws his hand from the shield, however, to hand the bag over to a robber, or the moment the carrier releases the hook or other control means within the shield, which may be done without the knowledge of the bandit, or the moment the bag in any way leaves the possession of the carrier, the device functions to deface the contents of the bag.

In addition to installing the device of the present invention in receptacles for the transportation of valuables, the device may also be installed in other places where valuables are stored and kept, such, for example, as safes, strong-boxes, safe deposit vaults, paymaster trains, etc.

Instead of manually controlling the emptying of the fluid container by means of a hook, other means of controlling the emptying of the fluid container may be restorted to.

Other objects and features of the invention will appear from the following description of an embodiment of the invention, which is shown merely for the purpose of affording an understanding of the invention and not for imposing limitations thereon, it being understood that changes and modifications may be resorted to within the scope of my claims without departing from the spirit of my invention. In said drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a handbag with parts broken away to show an anti-theft device of my invention mounted therein.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a handbag with an anti-theft device mounted therein, showing the fluid container in closed position in full lines and in open position in dotted lines, and

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, showing the means for emptying the fluid container.

The device is preferably installed in a portable receptacle 10, such as a hand-bag, brief case, suit case, or the like, in which valuable papers, securities, bank-notes, or the like are carried or transported. Said valuable papers need not be arranged in any particular manner within the bag, but may be placed therein at random. A container 12 of large capacity, of about one quart or more, is preferably suspended within the bag from the top framework 14. The container 12 is preferably filled with chemicals, ink, dye, or any suitable defacing, marking or destroying fluid 16, through filler opening 18, which is normally kept closed by a cap 20. The open bottom of the container is normally kept closed by a heavy door 22 hingedly connected at 24 to the side of the container. A gasket 26 of cork, soft sponge rubber or the like is preferably provided on the inner surface of the door 22 in order to insure an hermetically tight seal of the door 22 against the bottom edges 28 of the container and to avoid leakage therefrom.

The door 22 is kept tightly sealed against the container bottom by means of the finger engaging a hook 30 projecting through an aperture 32 provided in the top frame 14 between the two posts 34 of handle 36. The hook 30 is so positioned in order that it may be conveniently held by a finger while the hand of the carrier is grasping the handle 36. Said hook 30 is pivotally connected to pivoted lever 38, on the opposite end of which is a pivoted pendant member 40. The free end 40′ of said member 40 is relatively tapered, and adapted to seat in a groove 42 provided in the longer arm 44*a* of the eccentrically pivoted lever 44. The shorter arm 44*b* of said lever 44 is adapted, when the door 22 is in closed position, to fit into a loop 46 of bracket 48 carried by said door 22. As shown in full lines in Fig. 1, when the door 22 is closed, both the eccentrically pivoted lever 44 and the lever 38 are in substantially horizontal position, and the hook 30 is in elevated position with respect to the top frame 14. The moment the hook 30 is released and permitted to drop, the lever 38 swings out of horizontal plane, pulling the pivoted member 40 out of its groove 42 and

permitting the eccentrically pivoted lever 44 to also swing out of the horizontal plane, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, whereupon the container door 22, because of its own weight and weight of the liquid within the container, swings open rapidly and instantaneously empties the fluid within the container onto the contents of the bag.

A shield or guard 50 is rigidly secured to the top frame 14, and comprises a neck portion 52 of width sufficient to permit the insertion therethrough of the carrier's hand, and a relatively wider body portion 54 to enable the carrier's fingers to pass around and grasp the handle 36. The shield 50 is of sufficient height to cover the wrist of the carrier, so that the grasping of the carrier's hand above the shield, by a robber, cannot interfere with or hinder the carrier from causing the device to function. The shield is preferably made of tough sheet metal to resist deformation.

The interior of the bag may be waterproofed or lined with suitable waterproofing or non-corrosive material 56, so that the bag may be flooded repeatedly without damaging it.

The operation of the device is extremely simple, requires practically no attention, and there is nothing to get out of adjustment or to prevent the perfect functioning of the device at all times. Because of the large capacity of the fluid container and the manner in which it empties itself, the device functions with extreme rapidity and certainty, the fluid poured over the valuables reaches a rather high level in the bag and contacts with every part of said valuables, and the deluge of the fluid over said valuables is extremely effective in defacing and marking same regardless of how the valuables are arranged within said bag.

I claim:

1. A device for defacing and marking stolen valuable papers and the like to render same unsalable and non-transferable, comprising a chamber for receiving said valuables, a fluid container suspended within said chamber over said valuables, a closure at the lower side of said container adapted to open for emptying same, and means extending through the wall of said chamber for controlling said closure and operable from without said chamber for instantaneously discharging the contents of said fluid container upon the valuables within said chamber.

2. A device for defacing and marking stolen valuable papers and the like to render same unsalable and non-transferable, comprising a chamber for receiving said valuables, an open-bottomed fluid container suspended within said chamber over the valuables, a door hingedly connected to said container to close the bottom thereof, and means operable from without said chamber for instantaneously emptying the contents of said fluid container upon the valuables within said chamber.

3. In a receptacle for storing and transporting valuable papers and the like, comprising a chamber for receiving said valuables, a top framework and a handle, an open-bottomed fluid container suspended within said chamber over the valuables, a door hingedly connected to said container for tightly closing the bottom thereof, a hook projecting upwardly through the top framework of said receptacle adjacent the handle thereof, and means controlled by said hook for releasing said container door to discharge the fluid over the valuables, thereby staining and rendering same unsalable and non-transferable.

4. A device of the character described comprising a receptacle, a container within said receptacle for receiving a substance adapted to deface the contents of the receptacle, means associated directly with said container and normally biased by the action of a force to move in a direction to effect the release of said defacing substance, a detent adapted to hold said means from releasing said substance under the action of said force, and a member controlling said detent and projecting outside of the receptacle, said member being retained by hand in position to hold said detent in locking position and being releasable to permit of the release of said defacing substance.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name hereto.

CHARLES M. MORSSEN.