S. RAINS.

BAG CLASP.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 29, 1915.

1,177,446.

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Fig. 1.

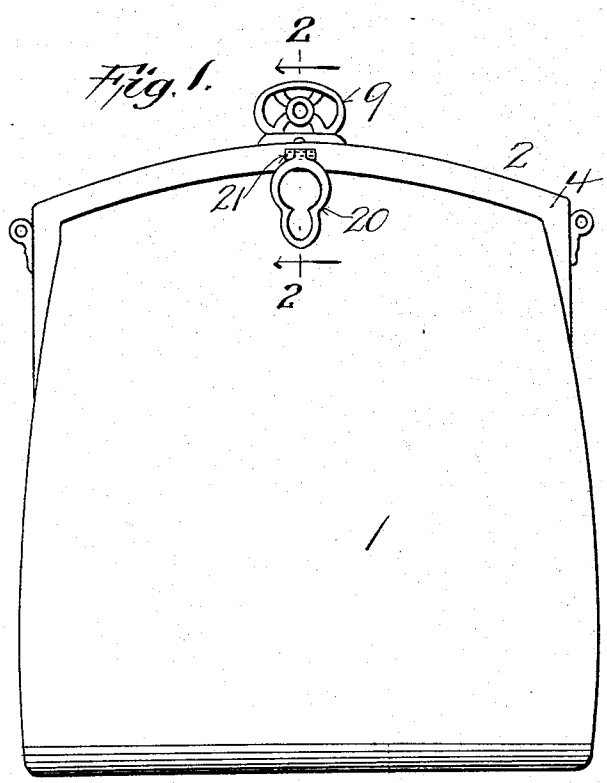


Fig. 5.

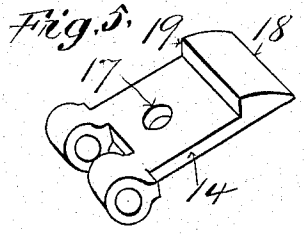


Fig. 2.

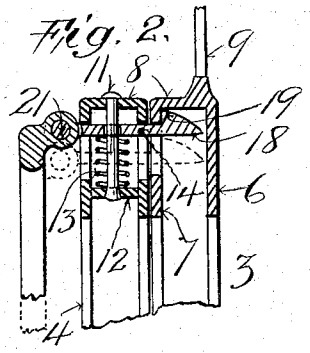


Fig. 3.

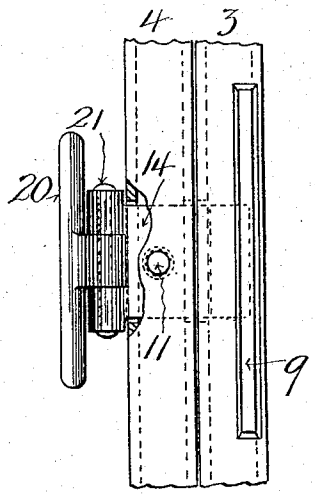
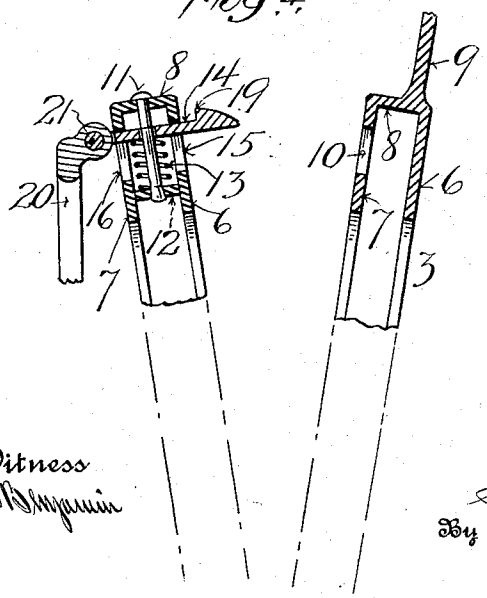


Fig. 4.



Witness

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BAG-CLASP.

1,177,446. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 28, 1916.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SALLO RAINS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bag-Clasps, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to clasps for bags and it is especially useful when applied to small hand bags such as are carried by women.

The object of the invention is to provide a very simple and easily operated catch for holding the bag closed and which will prevent thieves from opening the bag and extracting any of its contents while the bag is being carried.

The device is such that its construction and arrangement will lead one not familiar with its operation, to believe that its release is accomplished by moving the parts in one direction whereas, as a matter of fact it can only be released when the parts are operated in a different direction.

In the drawings forming part of this application, Figure 1 is an elevation of an ordinary hand bag to which my invention is applied, Fig. 2 is a sectional view, taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, Fig. 3 is a plan view of a portion of the bag and the clasp, partly broken away, Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the bag frame in open position, and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the catch member.

I have shown my invention applied to an ordinary hand bag having the form of frame now in general use. The bag comprises the bag or receptacle portion 1, secured to the frame 2. The latter consists of the members 3, 4, which it is to be understood are hinged together in the usual manner. The frame members 3, 4, are here shown as made from metal of U shape in cross section, with the parallel downward webs. 6, 7 and the top and connecting web 8. The frame member 3 has an upwardly extending fixed finger piece 9 by which this frame member may be grasped. This frame member also has an aperture 10 in its web 7, to receive the end of the catch.

The frame member 4 has arranged in the space between the webs 6, 7, a post 11, which is held in the web 8, and in a cross piece 12 arranged between the webs 6, 7. There is a coiled spring 13 surrounding the post 11, and lying in the space within the frame member 4. This spring presses upwardly on the catch member 14, which latter extends through the slots 15 and 16 in the webs 6 and 7. The catch member is guided by the post 11, which passes through an aperture, 17, therein and it is adapted to move up and down in the slots 15, 16. The catch member has an end 18 which projects to one side of the frame member 4 sufficiently to enter the slot 10 in the web 7 of the opposite frame member when the frame members are closed, as shown in Fig. 2. There is a shoulder 19 on the catch member, which engages behind the web 7 when the frame is closed, as shown in Fig. 2, and the catch is held in this engaged position by the spring 13.

In order to separate the frame members the catch 14 must be moved downwardly on the post 11 in opposition to the spring 13, and in order to provide for this I have arranged a finger piece 20 exterior of the bag and connected with the outer end of the catch member by a rocking connection, such as the hinge 21.

The exterior appearance of the device would lead one not familiar with its construction to believe that the bag is to be opened by grasping the finger piece 9 in one hand and the finger piece 20 in the other and by pulling them both apart laterally of the bag frame. Bags of this character having finger pieces are usually opened in this manner and there is nothing in the exterior appearance of the present device to indicate that it cannot thus be operated. But, as is apparent, simply drawing the finger pieces apart will not release the catch.

In order to release the catch it is necessary to pull downwardly on the finger piece 20, an operation which is in no way indicated by the appearance of the parts. When the finger piece 20 is thus pulled downwardly it draws down the catch member 14 on the post 11 and in opposition to the spring 13 until the shoulder 19 disengages from the web 7, whereupon the frame members may be swung open. The purpose, therefore, of having the finger piece 20 movably connected with the catch member is to indicate an operation different from that necessary

to open the bag, so that one not familiar with the device will have some difficulty in operating it.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A device of the class described comprising bag frame members, guiding means on one frame member, a catch member slidable vertically on said guiding means, said catch member being adapted to engage the other of said frame members and to be released therefrom by a downward movement of the catch member on its guiding means, and an exterior finger piece hinged to said catch member so as to swing in a vertical plane, the catch member being operated by downward movement of said finger piece to release said frame members.

2. A device of the class described, comprising bag frame members, a post secured to one frame member, a coiled spring surrounding said post, a catch member slidable on said post and engaged by said spring, said catch member being adapted to engage the other of said frame members and to be released therefrom by a downward movement of the catch member on said post, and an exterior finger piece hinged to the catch member so as to swing in a vertical plane.

3. A device of the class described comprising hinged bag frame members, a catch member carried by one of said frame members and movable up and down in relation thereto, said catch member extending laterally through said frame member and having means on one projecting portion to engage and hold the opposite frame member and adapted to be released therefrom by downward movement of the catch member, a finger piece attached to the other end of the catch member and adapted to swing thereon in a vertical plane, and a finger piece on the other of said frame members.

Signed at the city, county and State of New York, this 26th day of March, 1915.

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Witnesses:
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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."