April 12, 1927. C. J. McCABE ET AL 1,624,612

HAND BAG

Filed June 10, 1926

Fig. 1.

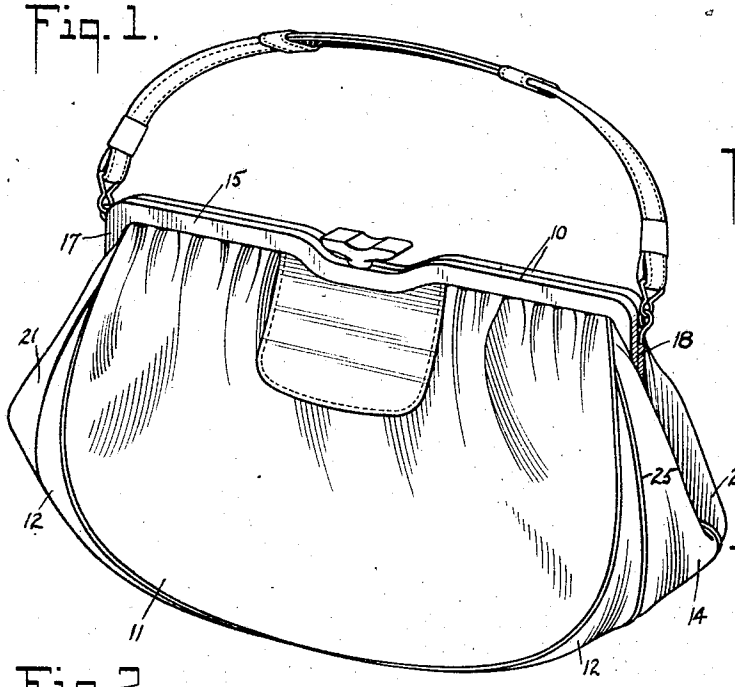


Fig. 3.

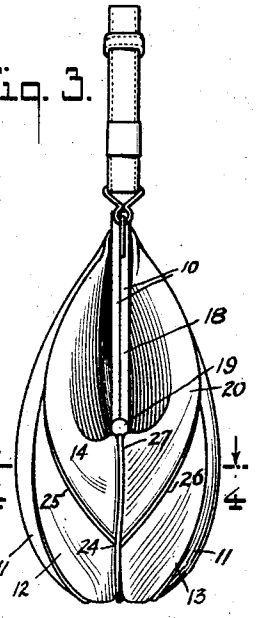


Fig. 2.

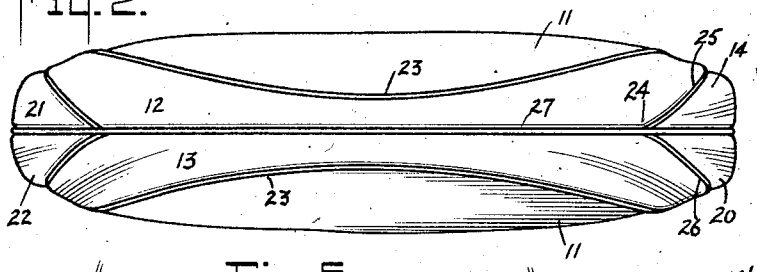


Fig. 4.

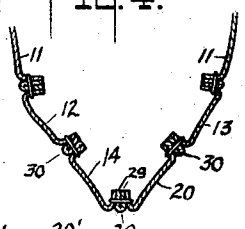
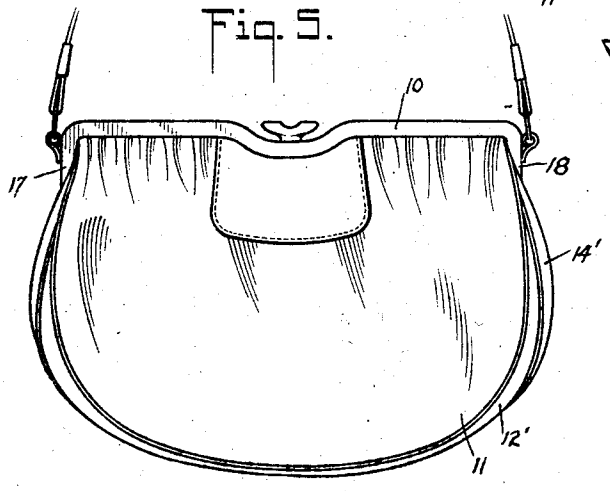


Fig. 5.



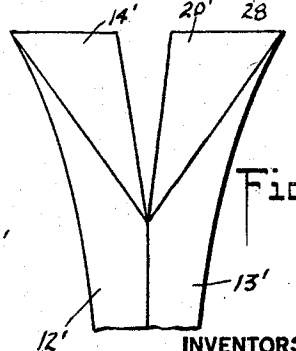


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HAND BAG.

Application filed June 10, 1926. Serial No. 114,903.

Our present invention relates to hand bags and has particular reference to women's bags of the type which is carried about day by day.

It is an object of the invention to provide a bag of this character wherein the structural components are so shaped and associated that the bag will retain its shape for a considerably longer period of time than the bags of usual construction.

Where we have attempted to construct bags by the association with pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, of a gusset or bottom element consisting of a single blank of material, we have found that extensive use will cause the bag to lose its shape by virtue of the fact that the gusset will stretch and distort. This is particularly likely to occur where the bag is subjected to frequent use, and where the contents are of a character to form a bulky mass which stretches the bag in all directions. This latter condition is almost universally the case in bags of this character, and the bulkiness of the contents will cause the bottom of the bag to stretch and consequently to sag. Moreover, the constant opening and closing of the bag necessitates the shaping of a one-piece gusset in such a manner that a large excess of material is generally produced, this excess projecting in an endwise direction and being one of the causes of eventual impairment of appearance. When the original contour of the bag, both at the bottom and at the ends, has once been distorted, either by sag or otherwise, it is extremely difficult for the bag to regain its original form.

It is one object of the present invention to overcome this defect in bags of this character, and more particularly, it is our object to provide a bag wherein distortion and sagging will be minimized.

In accordance with this object, the invention contemplates the provision of reinforcing ribs for the gusset, these ribs being suitably positioned in accordance with a predetermined plan so as to lend support and rigidity where we have found it lacking heretofore.

Another object of the invention is to provide a structure which permits us to produce desired configurations with great accuracy and ease, thereby making it possible to produce finished articles which have greatly enhanced qualities of appearance and workmanship.

A feature of the invention lies in providing the gusset in the form of a composite structure constituted of more than a single blank of material. This structure may include a pair of longitudinal strips; it may also include end portions of the gusset made up of component parts; and in the embodiment which we shall hereinafter describe and illustrate, we have shown a gusset formed of longitudinal strips and two pair of substantially triangular sections arranged at the ends of the gusset. The invention contemplates configuring the various component parts of the gusset in accordance with a predetermined plan so that the resultant article will embody a predetermined desired contour.

Another feature of the invention lies in designing the component parts in such a manner that if these parts are stitched to each other, the seams themselves will constitute the reinforcing ribs, or at least define the lines along which separate reinforcing ribs may be arranged.

It is an object generally of the invention to provide a bag which will have extremely good wearing qualities, which will present a neat workmanlike appearance, and which is constructed in a manner which renders the manufacture both simple and inexpensive.

For the attainment of the foregoing objects and such other objects as may hereinafter appear or be pointed out, we have illustrated two embodiments of our invention in the accompanying drawings wherein—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a complete bag formed in accordance with our invention;

Fig. 2 is a bottom view thereof;

Fig. 3 is an end view thereof;

Fig. 4 is a cross-section taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a side view of a modification; and

Fig. 6 is a plan view of strips and sections which are illustrative of the component parts which may constitute the gusset of the embodiment of Fig. 5.

Upon viewing Figs. 1, 3, and 5 of the drawings, it will be observed that we have shown our invention as embodied in a bag wherein the mouth or opening is defined by

a U-shaped rigid frame construction. This frame comprises two complementary U-shaped members or frames 10 adapted to lie in coincidence with each other when the bag is closed, and pivoted to each other, as at 19, at the lower ends of the depending legs 17 and 18, so that the bag may be opened and closed by swinging the members 10 relatively of each other about their pivots. The side elements 11 of the bag are each in the form of a substantially rectangular piece of material associated in a suitable manner along one longitudinal edge with the top edge 15 of one of the frames 10.

The balance of the bag structure illustrated in the drawings is constituted of a connecting portion which binds the sides 11 together, and provides the bottom and ends for the bag. We will term this portion of the bag the "gusset". Where we have made this gusset of an imperforate blank, we have found that several disadvantages result. In the first place, the gusset or bottom will sag when the bag is loaded and after it has been used for a considerable period; in the second place, the excess material which is provided by a one-piece gusset will impair the appearance of the ends of the bag because of their susceptibility to distortion; and in the third place, an imperforate one-piece gusset permits of only limited variations in the contour of the finished bag.

In accordance with the present invention, we have found that these difficulties can be overcome in a large measure by making the gusset in a manner which breaks up the continuity of the material across the width of the gusset. Thus, upon viewing Fig. 2 of the drawings, it will be observed that we have constructed our gusset of component parts which include longitudinal strips 12 and 13, end sections 14, 20, 21, and 22, and which are mutually associated in a manner presently to be described.

Referring to Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings, it will be observed that each of the strips 12 and 13 is provided with an outer concave longitudinal edge 23, thereby causing the strip to diverge outwardly from the center of the bag toward the end walls thereof. The end wall portions of the gusset are constituted of the substantially triangular sections 14, 20, 21 and 22. Thus, considering the sections 14 and 20, it will be observed that these sections comprise symmetrical substantially triangular pieces which are united to each other along corresponding edges, this line of union being shown as a continuation of the line of union between the strips 12 and 13. This line extends to the pivot points 19 and will be presently observed to constitute the line along which one of the reinforcing ribs is disposed. Each of the sections 14 and 20 has an end edge which corresponds substantially in length to the length of the leg 18, and the third edge of each section extends from the upper end of the leg 18 to a point 24 immediately underneath the end wall portion. It will thus be observed that the edges 25 and 26 of the sections 14 and 20 respectively are disposed along lines which define a V, this V being longitudinally arranged and having its apex directed towards the center of the bag. It will presently be shown that this V defines additional lines along which reinforcements are arranged.

As a result of this association of the various component parts, the sides 11 will have been connected with each other by a composite connecting portion which constitutes not only a bottom but also end walls of the bag. By virtue of the composite nature of this gusset, a finished contour can be imparted to the bag which will be directly dependent upon the shapes which have been chosen for the constituent parts of the gusset. By suitably designing the sections 14, 20, 21 and 22, and the strips 12 and 13, a large variety of shapes may be imparted not only to the end walls of the bag, but also to the entire bag itself.

In order to illustrate the various possibilities which a composite structure of this nature presents, we have illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 a modification wherein the gusset is provided with notched ends before it is finally associated with the bag. Referring to Fig. 6, it will be observed that the strips 12′ and 13′ are substantially like the strips 12 and 13. The sections 14′ and 20′, however, have been so constructed as to provide a V-shaped gap between them. This gap is in effect a notch which provides a split end for the gusset; and when the notch is closed by mutually attaching the edges which define it, a contour will result which will be directly dependent upon the nature of the notch. In the particular illustration shown, a split end of the character shown in Fig. 6 will produce a finished gusset contour which will have eliminated the excess material heretofore commonly observed in bags of the one-piece construction. The difference between the bag produced by the elements of Fig. 6, and other bags, will be obvious upon viewing Fig. 5.

Referring again to Figs. 2 and 3, it will be seen that we have denoted the seam joining the strips 12 and 13, and joining the symmetrical end sections, by the reference numeral 27. It is along this seam that we provide a longitudinal reinforcing rib which prevents distortion and sag of the bottom. We have found it satisfactory to construct this seam in such a manner that the seam itself will constitute the reinforcing rib. This is particularly feasible where the bag is constructed of material such as leather, and we have found it satisfactory to pro-

vide the seam in a manner as shown in Fig. 4. It will be observed that the strips 12 and 13 are not attached directly to each other, but are attached to a U-shaped connecting rib 28. This rib is so disposed with respect to the completed bag as to have its free ends 29 positioned in the interior of the bag, and the juxtaposed edges of the strips 12 and 13 are preferably turned inwardly in the same direction before being attached to the rib 28. From the outside, nothing is visible except the small ridge or bead constituted by the closed end of the U-shaped rib 28.

The angular lines illustratively indicated by the lines 25 and 26, these lines being defined by the attachments of the sections 14, 20, 21 and 22 to the strips 12 and 13, are also arranged to provide reinforcements. In the construction shown, the seams themselves are made to constitute the reinforcements, small U-shaped connecting ribs 30 being interposed between the component parts of the gusset just as the rib 28 was interposed between the strips 12 and 13. The reinforcements arranged along these angularly disposed lines are effective in supporting and lending rigidity to the end walls of the bag, and although we have shown the reinforcement 27 as extending all the way to the pivots 19, nevertheless it will be obvious that as to certain phases of the invention, this particular construction is unessential. Similarly, in so far as the angular reinforcements are concerned, the longitudinal reinforcement 27 is more or less optional, depending upon the requirements of the bag. We have, however, found that the arrangement illustrated is an extremely satisfactory one, and is particularly adaptable in bags of the character illustrated.

It will be obvious that many changes in the details herein described and illustrated for the purpose of explaining the nature of our invention may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. It is therefore intended that these details be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described our invention and illustrated its use, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having composite end wall portions to permit variable shaping of the latter.

2. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having end wall portions made up of a plurality of mutually associated sections to permit variable shaping of the end wall portions by the employment of sections of predetermined shape.

3. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having end wall portions made up of two substantially triangular sections associated with each other in a manner whereby a variable shape may be imparted to the end wall portions by suitably designing said sections.

4. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having end wall portions made up of two symmetrical substantially triangular sections mutually attached in a manner which imparts a predetermined contour to said end walls dependent upon the contours of said sections.

5. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset comprising a plurality of associated sections shaped to impart a contour to the bag which is dependent upon the predetermined shaping of said sections, the latter including juxtaposed symmetrical longitudinal strips whose longitudinal edges diverge from the center of the bag toward the ends thereof.

6. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset comprising a plurality of associated sections shaped to impart a contour to the bag which is dependent upon the predetermined shaping of said sections, the latter including a pair of longitudinal strips and two pairs of triangular end sections.

7. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having split end wall portions, whereby the latter may be variably shaped by suitably designing the nature of the splits.

8. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having composite end wall portions to permit variable shaping of the latter, and the component parts of said portions being shaped to provide longitudinal notches before they are associated, whereby said association will impart contours to the end walls dependent upon the shapes of the said notches.

9. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having end wall portions made up of a plurality of mutually associated sections to permit variable

shaping of the end wall portions by the employment of sections of predetermined shape, said sections being shaped to produce a gap between them when laid flat before association thereof.

10. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having end wall portions made up of a plurality of mutually associated sections to permit variable shaping of the end wall portions by the employment of sections of predetermined shape, said sections being shaped to produce a V-shaped gap between them and at each end of the gusset when they are laid flat before association thereof, said gap being closed after association of said sections by the mutual attachment of the edges defining it.

11. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag and provided with angularly disposed reinforcing ribs adjacent the ends thereof to prevent distortion of the end walls, said ribs being disposed along longitudinal V's whose apices are directed toward the center of the bag.

12. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having end wall portions made up of a plurality of mutually associated sections to permit variable shaping of the end wall portions by the employment of sections of predetermined shape, said sections being stitched together along seams which constitute angularly disposed reinforcing ribs for said end walls.

13. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset having end wall portions made up of two substantially triangular sections associated with each other in a manner whereby a variable shape may be imparted to the end wall portions by suitably designing said sections, the latter being stitched together along seams which define V-shaped reinforcing ribs for said end walls.

14. In a hand bag comprising pivoted frame members and side walls carried thereby, a gusset adapted to form the bottom and end walls of the bag, said gusset comprising a plurality of associated sections shaped to impart a contour to the bag which is dependent upon the predetermined shaping of said sections, the latter including a pair of longitudinal strips and two pairs of triangular end sections, and said strips and sections being stitched together along lines which define a longitudinal reinforcing rib for the bottom of the bag and angularly disposed reinforcing ribs for the end walls thereof.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto signed our names.

CHARLES J. McCABE.
IRVING SCHOENHOLZ.