Sept. 5, 1967 A. BESSERMANN-NIELSEN 3,339,823

HANDLE FOR CARRIER BAGS

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Fig. 1

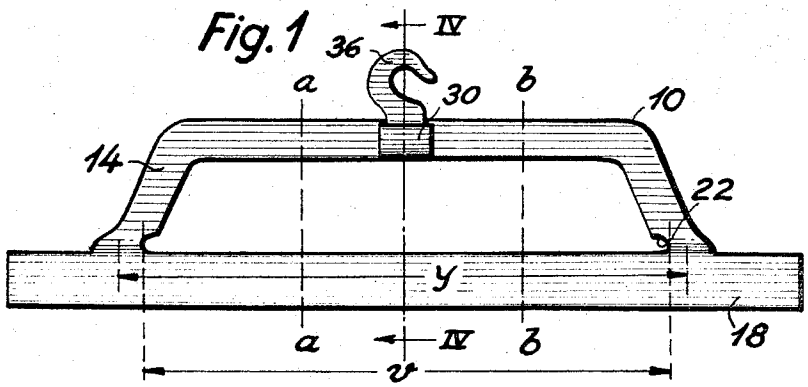


Fig. 2

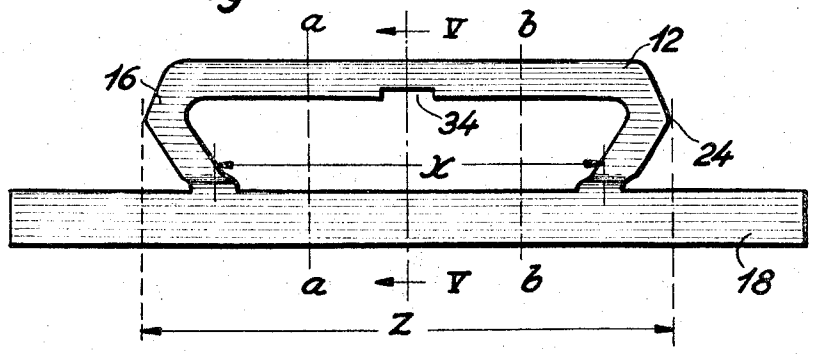
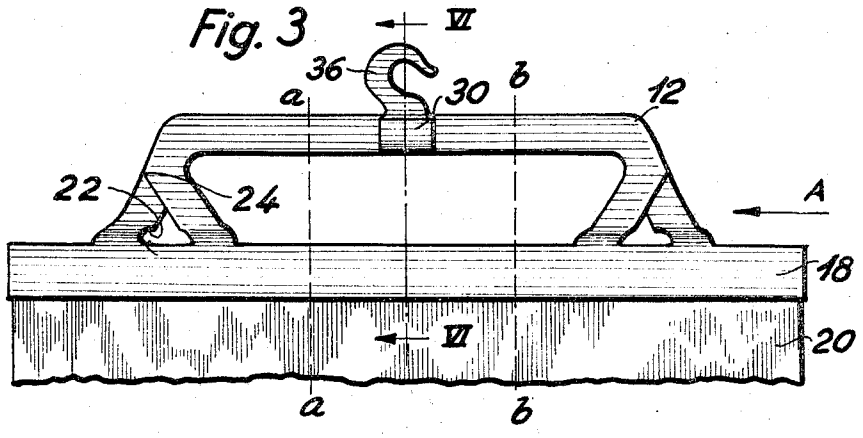


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

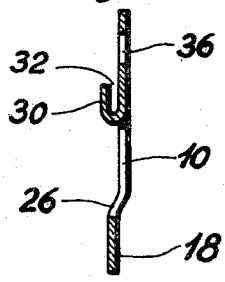


Fig. 5

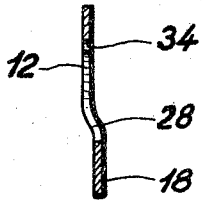


Fig. 6

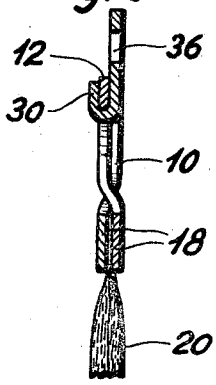


Fig. 7

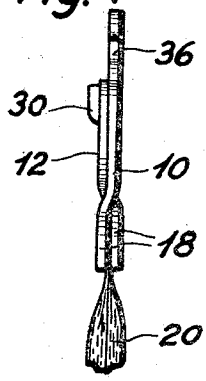


Fig. 8

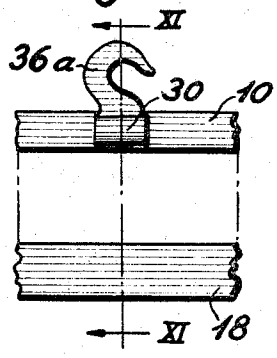


Fig. 9

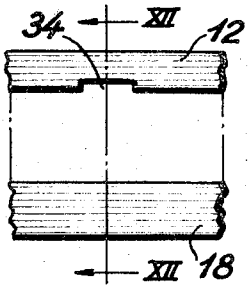


Fig. 10

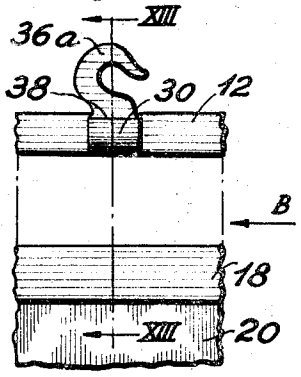


Fig. 11

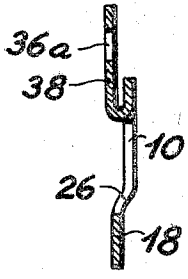


Fig. 12

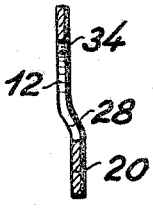


Fig. 13

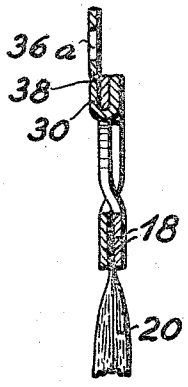
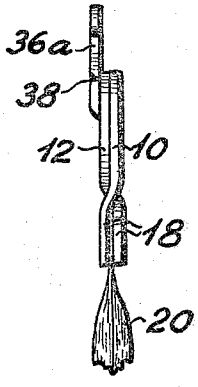


Fig. 14



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HANDLE FOR CARRIER BAGS

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Claims priority, application Denmark, Dec. 9, 1964, 6,058/64
6 Claims. (Cl. 229—54)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A handle for carrier bags has two halves in the form of loops. The legs of one loop are spaced farther apart than the legs of the other loop, so that the narrower loop can be passed through the wider loop and the bag is maintained closed because the loops are interlocked back-to-back relative to their open position.

The present invention relates to a handle for carrier bags, particularly of the kind made from foil, preferably transparent plastic foil, and adapted to be used for carrying commodities, which are displayed in that the bag is suspended by its handle from a support.

The handle consists in a known way of two substantially similar halves placed side by side, the lower parts of which are connected to a reinforcement strip positioned at the edge of the bag. When the commodity is to be taken out the two halves of the handle are moved apart, whereby the bag is opened. In the closed position of the bag the two halves of the handle bear against each other. In order to maintain them in this position, it is known e.g. to place snap fasteners on the reinforcement strip, which are pulled open when the bag is opened.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a closing device which does not call for additional parts, but results alone from the configuration of the handle.

Another object of the invention is to avoid tugging on the halves of the handle when opening the above mentioned snap fasteners, which can cause the material of the bag to tear. This is a drawback as the bags in question are often utilized after having served their original purpose as small shopping-bags, for which reason they should be able to be opened and closed a good many times without being damaged.

Still another object is to avoid inwardly projecting members on the halves of the handle as is the case in connection with snap fasteners.

Other objects of the invention and the advantages obtained thereby will appear from the following specification with reference to the drawings.

The aforesaid objects of the invention are obtained by providing a handle for carrier bags, in which the lower parts of two generally similar handle halves, preferably having the same slope, are inclined in opposite directions so that when closing the bag one half can be passed through the loop of the other half, its outwardly facing side thereby bearing on the outwardly facing side of the other half.

For a better understanding of the present invention reference should be had to the accompanying drawings, wherein like numerals of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a side view of one half of the handle.

FIGURE 2 is a side view of the other half of the handle.

FIGURE 3 is a side view of the two halves in assembled state, showing the bag closed.

FIGURES 4, 5 and 6 are cross-sectional views along the lines IV—IV in FIGURE 1, V—V in FIGURE 2 and VI—VI in FIGURE 3, respectively.

FIGURE 7 is a view of the handle, as seen from the edge of the bag, in the direction of the arrow A in FIGURE 3 and in a locked state.

FIGURES 8, 9 and 10 are side views of another embodiment of the centrally placed looking device of the handle corresponding to FIGURE 1, FIGURE 2 and FIGURE 3, respectively, in that only the part of the handle is shown which lies between the lines *a*—*a* and *b*—*b* in the last-mentioned figures.

FIGURES 11, 12 and 13 are cross-sectional views along the lines XI—XI in FIGURE 8, XII—XII in FIGURE 9 and XIII—XIII in FIGURE 10, respectively, and FIGURE 14 is a view of the handle according to FIGURES 8–10, as seen from the edge of the bag in the direction of the arrow B in FIGURE 10 and in a locked state.

The handle shown in FIGURES 1–7 consists of two halves **10** and **12** which, apart from the later mentioned deviation, have the same shape and each of which is symmetrical about a vertical central line. The halves **10** and **12** are generally U-shaped, and the legs of the halves, **14** and **16** respectively, are integral with a stiffening or reinforcement strip **18**, which is located at the upper edge of the appurtenant bag **20**, a fragment of which is shown in FIGURE 3. The strip can consist of two cohering halves which at the side edges of the bag are joined to the material of the bag which is preferably plastic foil. The handle and the strip **18** are also plastic material substantially thicker than the foil but readily flexible.

The legs **14** and **16** of the halves **10** and **12** of the handle are inclined in opposite directions, vide FIGURES 1 and 2. Furthermore the distance *x* between the feet of the half **12** at the strip **18** is less than the distance *y* between the feet of the half **10** at this strip. Thus, when the bag is closed the half **12** can be passed through the opening or loop between the half **10** and the strip **18** after which the two halves are able to have their originally outer sides to bear against each other as shown in FIGURES 6 and 7. Thus the bag is locked in a closed state, and this result is obtained alone by the configuration of the handle without any additional parts.

The inclined parts or legs of each half preferably have the same slope, whereby a regular symmetrical arrangement characterizes the closed bag, vide FIGURE 3. Preferably inner slots **22** are located at the feet of the half **10** and the distance between the outer points **24** of the half **12** is selected so that it is a little less than the distance *v* between the bottoms of the slots **22** thereby facilitating the passage of half **12** through the loop formed by the U-shaped half **10** and the associated strip **18** without the necessity of being bent lengthwise. One or, as shown, both halves **10** and **12** of the handle may be offset from their feet on the strip **18** inwardly in relation to the plane of the strip, vide FIGURES 4 and 5 where the offsets are denoted by **26** and **28**. By this shaping the two halves **10** and **12** naturally abut against each other along almost the whole of their area, vide FIGURES 6 and 7.

In view of the fact that the bag should be kept closed across its full width the distance between the feet of the halves of the handle is made rather large and accordingly the handle is very broad in a horizontal direction as appears from FIGURES 1–3. Thus the part of the strip **18** that lies between the feet of each handle has a corresponding length with the risk that the bag by bulging out of the material may open between the feet. This drawback can be obviated in that a third locking means is placed at the top of the centre of the handle. This locking means can be arranged as follows:

From one half **10** of the handle, preferably from its lower rim or edge a flap **30** extends, which is bent and turned over and then lies parallel with the outwardly facing side of this half, vide FIGURE 4. Thus a slot **32** is formed which can receive the other half **12** of the handle whereby the halves of the handle are kept against each other, vide FIGURE 6, which effects a more complete closing of the bag along its medium part. The bent part of the flap **30** passes preferably through a notch **34** at the lower edge of the half **12** of the handle, vide FIGURE 2, whereby the lower edge of the handle remains straight when the bag is closed.

At the center of the upper edge of the half **10** a suspension hook **36** is located, by which the bag can be suspended well balanced from a support for exhibition use.

The embodiment shown in FIGURES 8–14 correspond to that earlier mentioned with the exception only that the suspension hook which is here denoted by **36*a***, is placed at the end of the flap **30**. Furthermore, the same reference numerals are used here as in FIGURES 1–7.

In order that the bag upon later use during shopping may be easy to carry, the suspension hook can be adapted to be easily broken off. To this end the flap **30** has a cut **38** at the base of the suspension hook **36*a*** along its surface, vide FIGURES 11, 13 and 14. The hook can also be weakened in another way e.g. by a row of small holes.

What I claim is:

1. A handle for carrier bags, comprising a first half and a second half having substantially the same width and adapted to be placed side by side contacting each other, each half being largely shaped as an inverted U, the legs of each half being connected to a reinforcement strip at their lower ends to form an aperture, the legs of said first half diverging downwards, the legs of said second half converging downwards thereby allowing said second half to be carried through the aperture of said first half without being bent lengthwise, said reinforcement strips being adapted to be secured to the upper edges of a bag.

2. A handle for carrier bags according to claim **1**, in which slots are provided at the inner edge of said legs of said first half at points where they adjoin said reinforcement strip.

3. A handle for carrier bags according to claim **1**, in which at least one half of the handle is offset inwards at points where it adjoins said reinforcement strip.

4. A handle for carrier bags according to claim **1**, in which locking means are provided at the center of the handle, to keep said halves in mutual contact.

5. Locking means for a handle according to claim **1**, comprising a hook, said hook passing through a notch at the lower edge of the other half of the handle.

6. A handle for carrier bags, comprising a first half, a second half and a reinforcement strip arranged at the upper edge of the bag, each half forming together with said reinforcement strip a loop, the length of the loop of said first half in the direction of the reinforcement strip being smaller than the length of the loop of said second half in the direction of the reinforcement strip at the points where said halves adjoin the reinforcement strip so that, after said first half has been carried through the loop of said second half from the front side to the back side thereof, the two halves lying flush against each other with the side surfaces which originally faced outward disposed in contact with each other, and means to keep said halves in mutual contact in this position.

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DAVID M. BOCKENEK, *Examiner.*