Nov. 18, 1958 L. H. LE GOFF 2,860,681

BOWLING BAG

Filed Dec. 12, 1957 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

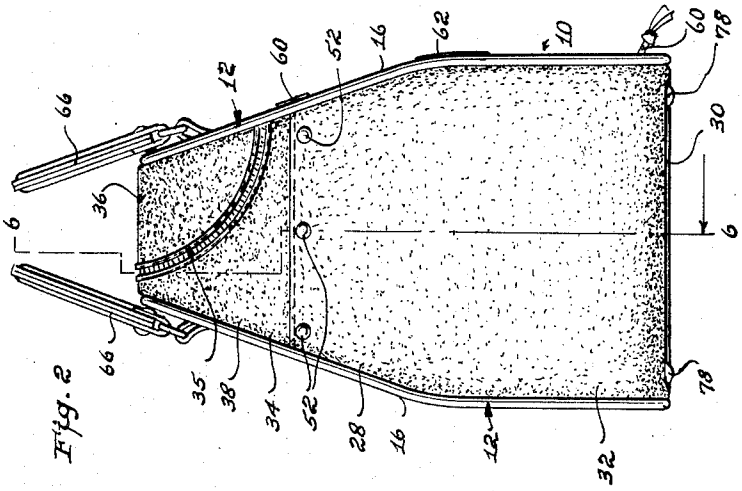


Fig. 2

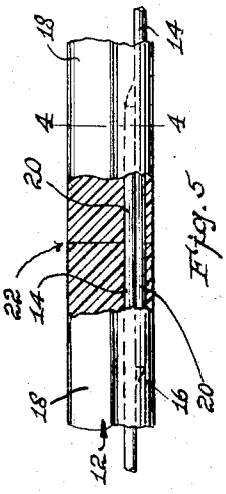


Fig. 5

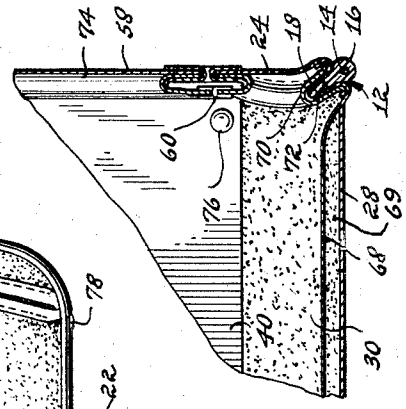


Fig. 3

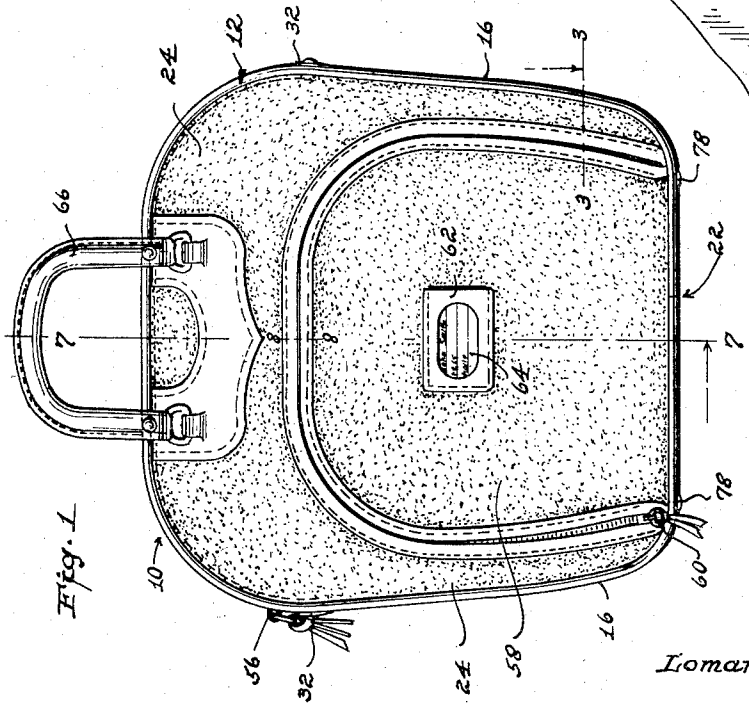


Fig. 1



Fig. 4

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BOWLING BAG

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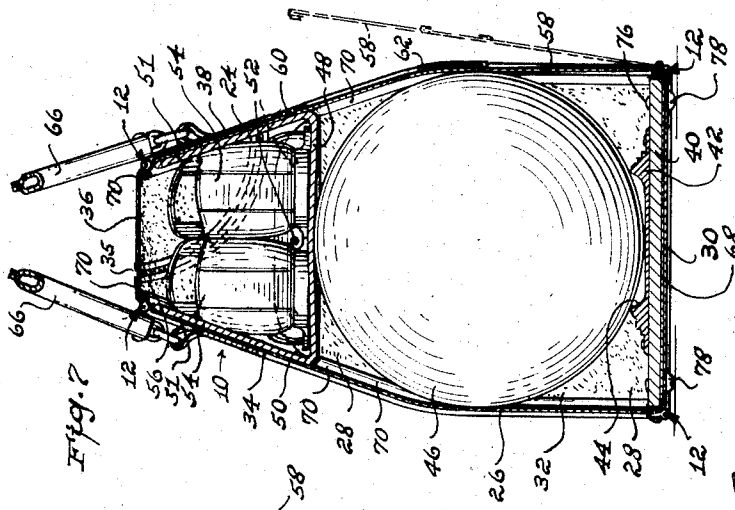


Fig. 7

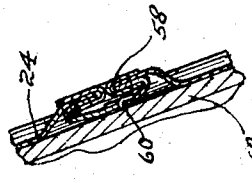


Fig. 8

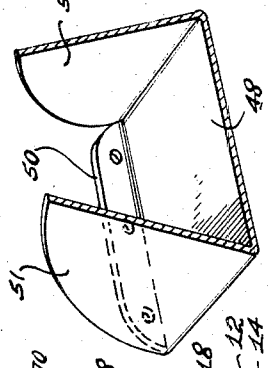


Fig. 9

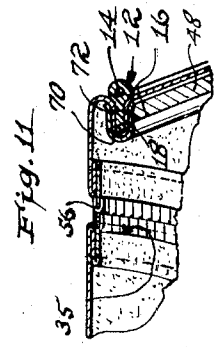


Fig. 11

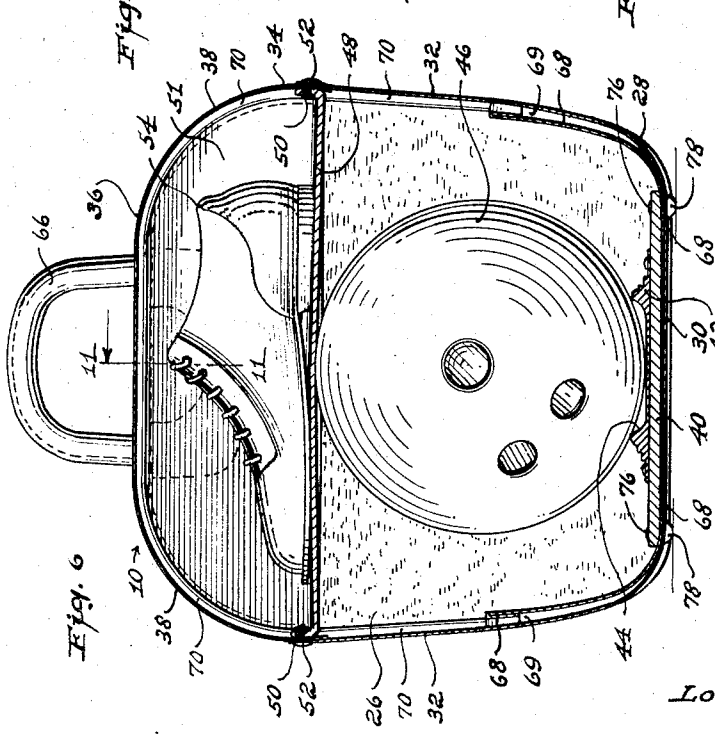


Fig. 6

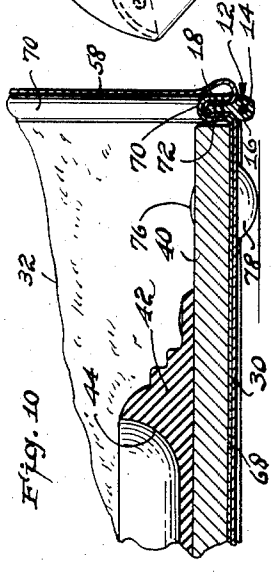


Fig. 10

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2,860,681

BOWLING BAG

Loman H. Le Goff, Lawrenceville, N. J.

Application December 12, 1957, Serial No. 702,358

8 Claims. (Cl. 150—52)

This invention relates to hand bags, and one of the principal objects of the invention is to provide a bag of special design and construction for carrying bowling balls and shoes in a more convenient and advantageous manner than has been afforded by bags of previous types for such purposes.

Certain previous types of bags designed for carrying bowling balls and shoes require that the bowling shoes be crammed into the bag with the bowling ball, which tends not only to distort the shoes, but also to scuff the highly polished surface of the bowling ball. In other previous bags for the purpose mentioned the bag is provided with a compartment in its upper portion for the bowling ball and a separate compartment in the lower portion of the bag for the bowling shoes.

In my improved bag for carrying a bowling ball and bowling shoes, I have provided a central seat in the bottom of the bag and a stiff, but resilient, flat board extending longitudinally in a plane slightly below that of the upper periphery of the ball and rigidly secured to the end walls of the bag, this board not only forming a compartment above the ball for containing the bowling shoes in undistorted condition but also functions as a spring member for clamping the ball into its seat in the bottom of the bag.

This construction provides several distinct advantages over previous bags designed for the purpose mentioned, among them being (1) that the ball compartment being in the bottom portion of the bag and the shoe compartment in the upper portion defines a natural shape for the bag of an attractive design particularly well adapted for convenience in carrying; (2) the complement of the heavier ball in the bottom portion and the lighter shoes in the top portion of the bag places the center of gravity of the load substantially in the natural center of the bag, thus further enhancing the convenience in carrying the bag; and (3) the spring partition member bearing on the ball tends to keep the walls of the bag in a stretched condition and prevents sagging of the walls when the bag is at rest on a floor, this feature being of particular advantage when, for example, a number of the bags are placed together in storage or transportation.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a special frame member consisting of a resilient wire within a tubular plastic casing having a continuous radial flange, and with the projecting ends of the wire adapted for insertion in the free ends of the plastic casing in frictional engagement with the body of the wire to form a continuous ring, with the walls of the bag folded over the edges of the flange and secured by U-shaped binding strips stitched through the flange, by means of which two transversely opposed frame members constitute a complete resilient frame for the entire bag.

Other objects and advantages of my improved hand bag will be apparent or pointed out in the following specification in which reference is had to the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of one embodiment of my improved hand bag;

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a transverse section of one of the frame members, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 5 is a detail view of the frame member partly in section;

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section corresponding to Fig. 1 taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 2, but showing the ball and shoes in elevation;

Fig. 7 is a transverse section corresponding to Fig. 2 taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 1 with the ball and shoes shown in elevation;

Fig. 8 is a detail section taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 9 is a detail perspective view of one end of the shoe supporting board or partition;

Fig. 10 is an enlarged detail section corresponding to the lower right hand corner of Fig. 7; and

Fig. 11 is an enlarged detail section taken on the line 11—11 of Fig. 6.

Referring to the drawings in which like reference numerals designate like parts in the several views, the embodiment of my improved hand bag illustrated is designated generally by the numeral **10** and is constructed upon two transversely opposite, resilient frame members **12** of continuous ring-like formation, each of which comprises a resilient wire **14** inclosed in a tubular plastic casing **16** having a continuous integral, radial flange **18**, illustrated in detail in Figs. 4 and 5. In the construction of the bag **10** the casing is cut in two at its free ends so that the free end portions **20** of the wire normally project some distance beyond the adjacent ends of the casing. As shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5 the free ends of the wire are inserted in the opposed ends of the casing in overlapping relation with the main body of the wire until the free ends of the casing abut, as indicated at **22**, thereby defining the corners of the bag with a continuous ring. The plastic material of the casing is deformable, as shown in Fig. 4 so that the end portions **20** of the wire **14** can be forced into the casing **16** in overlapping relation with the body portion of the wire **14** and firmly held in frictional engagement therewith.

The walls of the bag **10** consist of four principal sections comprising the front and rear sections **24** and **26**, respectively, a lower intermediate section **28** comprising a continuous U-shaped sheet forming the bottom **30** and the lower end portions **32** and the upper intermediate section **34** forming the top **36** and the upper end portions **38**. These wall portions may be made of fabric or any other suitable flexible material. It has been found to enhance the attractiveness of the bag to make the different sections in contrasting colors. A relatively thick horizontal supporting board **40** is riveted or otherwise suitably secured to the inside of the bottom **30** and a resilient bowling ball support **42** having a circular cavity **44** is centrally mounted on the board **40** to receive a bowling ball **46**. The upper free end portions of the lower intermediate section **28** are overlapped on the lower end portions of the upper intermediate wall section **34** and stitched or otherwise suitably secured thereto. A stiff, but resilient, board **48** having upturned end portions **50** and side portions **51**, is secured inside the overlapping end wall portions in parallel relation with the bottom **30** by means of rivets **52** or other suitable means. The normal plane of the bottom surface of the board **48** is, preferably, slightly below the upper periphery of the ball **46** so that when the ball is placed in the central cavity **44** of the support **42** the central portion of the board **48** will be forced upwardly, thereby placing the ball un-

der slight resilient compression between the board and the support, thus precluding displacement of the ball from the support when the bag is dropped or otherwise subjected to jolting action. It will be observed that the cavity **44** is so formed that the ball rests only on its edge. The board **48** also defines an upper compartment for containing a pair of bowling shoes **54**, which rest upon the top surface of the board. The upper intermediate wall section **34** is split along its ends and one side as shown at **35** to provide an opening to the shoe compartment, and a conventional zipper **56** or other suitable fastening means is attached to the edges of the opening for holding the edges in closed relation. Also the lower portion of the frontal wall section **24** is split in the form of an arch of greater width and height than the diameter of the ball **46** to enable the ball to be placed in the cavity **44** and removed therefrom, the split forming a hinged closure **58**, which may be provided with a welted edge, and also having a conventional zipper **60** or other suitable fastening means for securing the closure to the opposed edge of the arched opening, which also may be welted. The closure **58** may have a frame **62** attached to its outer surface for containing an identification card **64**. A pair of handles **66** is attached to the upper outer surfaces of the front and rear wall sections as illustrated. A pair of separate sheets of fabric **68** may be secured between the floor board **40** and the bottom wall portion **30** to form pockets **69** inside the end walls of the bag. It will be seen that the front and back walls **24** and **26** are spaced apart a sufficient distance so that the ball **46** fits between the walls without stretching them.

The manner in which the wall sections are attached to the resilient frame members **12** is illustrated in enlarged detail in Figs. 3, 10 and 11. As shown in Fig. 3 the edges of the front and end sections **24** and **28** are infolded into overlapping relation with one of the sides of the flange **18** and the intermediate section **28** is infolded into overlapping relation with the opposite side of the flange **18**. The ends of the two sections are then inclosed by a U-shaped binding strip **70** and secured thereto by stitching therethrough as shown at **72**. However, the sheets forming the bag walls and the binding strips may be made of a material which can be attached together by thermal sealing, or other suitable means. It will be observed that the angle of the axis of the strip **70** when disposed as shown in section in Fig. 3 merges into vertical portions **74** extending along the front and rear sections **24** and **26**, the construction being the same at both front and rear, and the change of angle of the strip is rendered possible due to the deformability of the frame members **12**. As shown in Fig. 10 the flanges **18** at the lower corners of the bag are parallel with the front and rear sections. Otherwise the manner of attachment of these sections and the bottom wall **30** to the frame members is the same as above described. As shown in Fig. 11 the upper portions of the frames are twisted so that the flange **18** is disposed horizontally, but otherwise the construction is the same as shown in Figs. 3 and 10. The board **40** is secured to the bottom **30** of the bag by means of rivets **76** which are provided at their lower ends with rounded heads **78** which serve as floor supports for the bag.

It will be seen that in the completed bag the cylindrical portions of the frame members **12** surround the outside corners of the bag in continuous rings, thereby imparting an attractive finish to the bag. Because of the resiliency of the frame members the shoe compartment may easily be opened widely.

Obviously, various changes and modifications of my improved bag construction may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention. Therefore, it should be understood that the embodiment of my invention shown and described is intended to be illustrative only, and restricted by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a bag of the class described including side, end, top and bottom walls and a central concave bowling ball support on the inside of said bottom wall, a resilient partition board having upturned end and side portions, fastening means projecting through said portions and the end and side walls of the bag, thereby attaching said board to said walls in a horizontal plane with the plane of its bottom surface slightly below that of the upper periphery of the ball when in said support, said board forming a shoe compartment in the upper portion of the bag and also providing means for pressing the ball against said concave support, an opening in the top wall and portions of the end walls to said shoe compartment, an opening in one of said side walls to permit the insertion into and the removal of the ball from said bag, and means for closing each of said openings.

2. A bag of the class described comprising a pair of transversely opposed resilient frame members of continuous ring-like formation, each including a resilient wire inclosed in a tubular plastic casing having an integral, continuous radial flange, and in which projecting ends of the wire are inserted in said casing in overlapping and frictional engagement with the body of the wire and with the ends of the casing in abutting relation to form a continuous ring-like frame, flexible sheets attached to said radial flanges by means of U-shaped binding strips inclosing infolded edge portions of adjacent sheets and the flanges, to form side, end, top and bottom walls of the bag, a central concave bowling ball support on said bottom wall, a partition board attached at its ends to the end walls of the bag in a horizontal plane approximately coincidental with the upper periphery of the ball when in said support, said board forming a shoe compartment in the upper portion of the bag, an opening in the top wall and portions of the end walls to said shoe compartment, an opening in one of said side walls to permit the insertion into and the removal of the ball from said bag and means for closing each of said openings.

3. A bag of the class described comprising a pair of transversely opposed resilient frame members of continuous ring-like formation, each including a resilient wire inclosed in a tubular plastic casing having an integral, continuous radial flange, and in which projecting ends of the wire are inserted in said casing in overlapping and frictional engagement with the body of the wire and with the ends of the casing in abutting relation to form a continuous ring-like frame, a continuous sheet attached to said radial flanges by means of U-shaped binding strips inclosing edge portions of adjacent sheets infolded against opposite sides of the flanges, to form the bottom and a portion of the end walls of said bag, other sheets attached to said flanges in like manner to form the sides of said bag, another sheet attached in the like manner to said flanges and to the aforesaid continuous sheet to form the top of said bag, a central concave bowling ball support on said bottom wall, a partition board attached at its ends to the end walls of the bag on a horizontal plane approximately coincidental with the upper periphery of the ball when in said support, said board forming a shoe compartment in the upper portion of the bag, an opening in the top wall and portions of the end walls to said shoe compartment, and an opening in one of the side walls to permit the insertion into and the removal of the ball from said bag.

4. A bag according to claim 2 in which a reinforcing board is interposed between the bottom of the bag and the concave support.

5. A bag according to claim 2 in which infolded edge portions of the sheets forming the walls of the bag are secured to the radial flanges of the frame members by means of U-shaped binding strips inclosing the flanges and edge portions and stitched therethrough.

6. A bag according to claim 2 in which said partition board is resilient and in which the bottom surface of said board is in a plane slightly below that of the upper periphery of the ball when in the support.

7. A bag according to claim 2 in which the sheets forming the walls of the bag are attached to the flanges of the frame members by infolding the edge portions of adjacent sheets against opposite sides of the flanges, inclosing the edge portions of the sheet with U-shaped binding strips and stitching through said sheets and flanges.

8. A bag according to claim 2 in which the partition board is provided with upturned end and sides and including means for attaching said upturned ends and sides to the end and side walls of the bag.

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