Dec. 5, 1961 R. D. BOYT 3,011,687

FIREARM HOLSTER

Filed Jan. 2, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

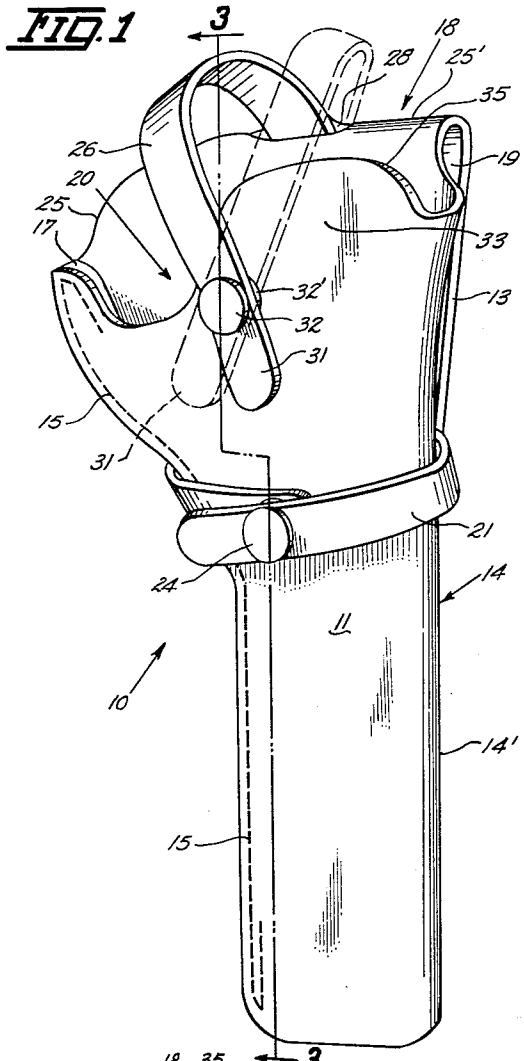


FIG. 3

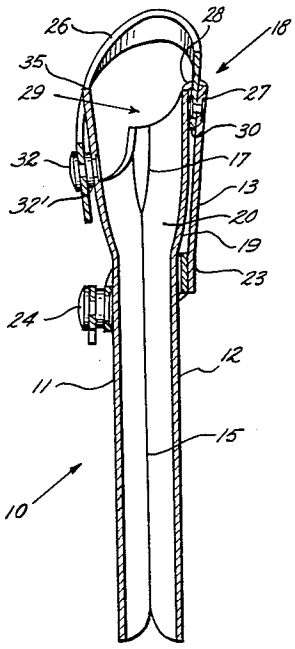


FIG. 4

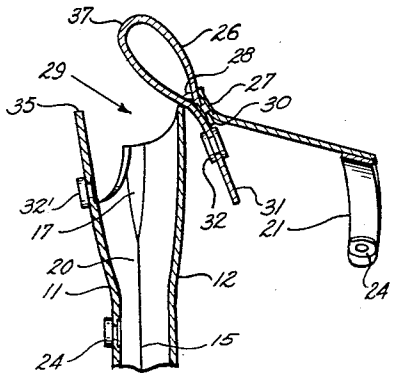
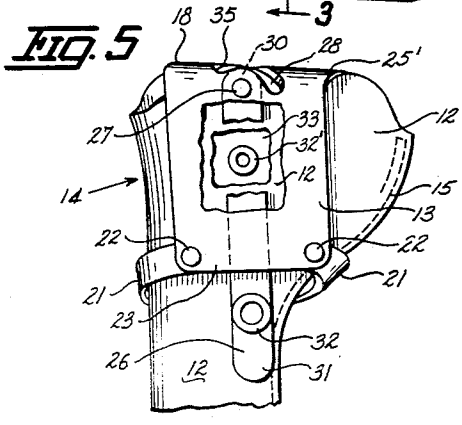


FIG. 5



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Filed Jan. 2, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 2

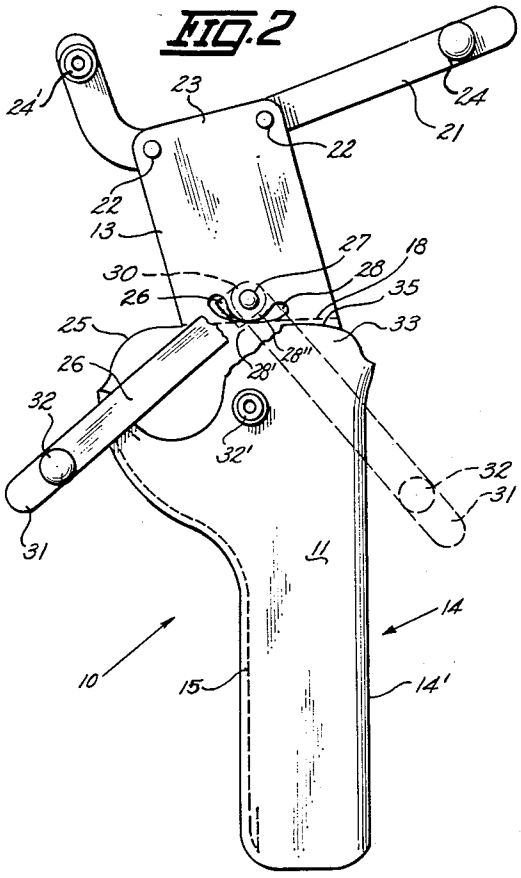
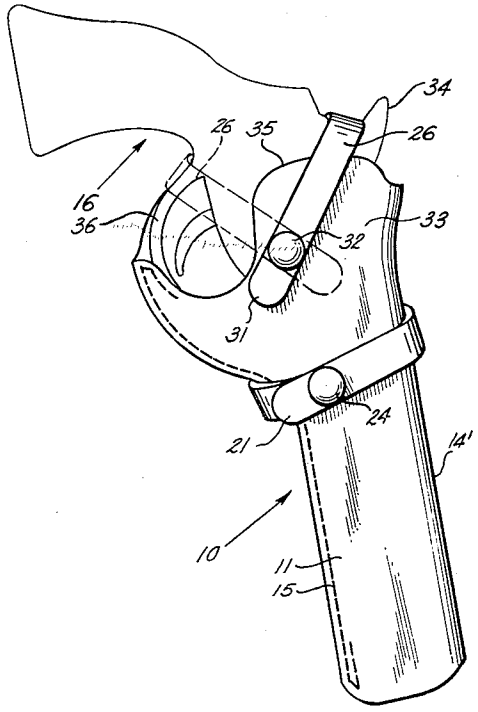


FIG. 6



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FIREARM HOLSTER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 224—2)

This invention relates generally to a firearm holster adapted for pistols, revolvers, and the like, and more particularly to an improved holster wherein a novel retaining strap arrangement permits the placement of the strap in a plurality of different positions relative to the pistol being held in the holster.

A retaining strap is a part of a holster, the prime purpose of which is to secure a pistol in the holster. The particular manner in which the pistol is held by the strap, however, is subject to varying circumstances. For example, should the user desire maximum security or safety as to the pistol when he is or may become extremely active in physical movement, or when he is traveling on foot across overgrown terrain, the strap should be passed over the hammer of the pistol to protect the same from accidental discharge.

A different position of the strap, wherein it is over the trigger guard of the pistol is best when some security is desired, but where the ability of the user to quickly draw the pistol with a minimum of interference by the strap is of more importance. In other instances, a third position may be desired if the user wants the strap completely out of the way of the pistol so as to in no way obstruct the drawing of the weapon.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a holster for use with a pistol, revolver, or the like wherein the retaining strap for securing the pistol in place in the holster is positionable over either the trigger guard or the hammer.

Another object of this invention is to provide a holster wherein the retaining strap may be passed over the hammer of the pistol being held, regardless of the grip modification of the pistol.

A further object of this invention is to provide a holster with a retaining strap wherein the strap may be positioned so that it in no way contacts the pistol held in the holster and is completely hidden from view while the holster is in use.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a holster embodying the aforementioned objects and which is economical to manufacture, rugged in service, and effective in use.

These objects, and other features and advantages will become more fully apparent by reference to the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the firearm holster of this invention, showing the retaining strap in one moved position therefor;

FIG. 2 is a reduced side elevational view of the holster with the back flap in a raised, unfolded position disclosing the slot through which the retaining strap is usually extended, with parts broken away for clarity;

FIG. 3 is a reduced, sectional view taken along the line 3—3 in FIG. 1, wherein the back flap and the retaining strap are in snapped positions;

FIG. 4 is a reduced, fragmentary view similar to FIG. 3, but showing the back flap in an unsnapped position, and with the retaining strap reversed upon itself;

FIG. 5 is a reduced fragmentary rear elevational view, wherein the strap is arranged to the outside of the holster pocket, with parts broken away for clarity; and

FIG. 6 is a reduced, side elevational view of the holster, illustrated similar to FIG. 1 and having a pistol inserted therein, and showing the retaining strap in solid lines in a hammer locking position, and in dotted lines in a trigger guard position.

Referring to the drawings and particularly FIG. 1, the holster of this invention is indicated generally at **10** and is formed in the main from a single blank of heavy, firm, waxed impregnated leather. The blank is cut so as to include a front wall **11**, a rear wall **12**, and a rear or back flap **13** which is an extension of the rear wall **12**. The front and rear walls are folded at **14** and their outer edges are secured together in any suitable manner, preferably by stitching at **15** to form a pocket **20** (FIG. 1) for a pistol **16** (FIG. 6). By the particular configuration of the walls **11** and **12** which follows the contour of the pistol **16** for which the holster **10** is intended, it is seen that a tailored effect for the pistol is obtained.

A welt **17** (FIGS. 1 and 3) may be inserted and secured by the stitching **15** between the upper outer edges of the walls so as to provide a tapered trigger guard. By folding down the back flap **13** at the junction **18** between the flap and the rear wall **12**, a belt-receiving loop having an opening **19** (FIG. 3) is formed. A strap **21** (FIG. 2) is secured by rivets **22** to the outer end **23** of the back flap **13** for securing the end **23** down to the body of the holster. A conventional snap fastening device **24** is provided for this purpose. Of note, when the back flap **13** is folded down (FIG. 1), the junction or fold **18** forms, with the free upper edge **25** of the rear wall **12**, the rear upper edge **25'** of the pocket **20**. The front upper edge **35** of the pocket is formed by the irregular upper edge of the front wall **11**. The front and rear upper edges **35** and **25'** thus define the sides of an elongated open top **29** of the pocket **20**.

An elongated, relatively narrow retaining strap **26** (FIGS. 2 and 3) is movably secured at one end **30** by a rivet **27** to the outer or rear side of back flap **13**. The rivet **27** is located approximately half-way across the width of the back flap **13**, or at its midpoint, and closely adjacent the fold **18** (FIGS. 2 and 3). To permit the free portion of the strap **26** to be passed through the back flap **13**, a slot **28** (FIG. 2) is formed substantially along the fold **18** (FIG. 3). The slot **28** (FIG. 2) is generally curved in a concave manner relative to the rivet **27** and extends laterally beyond the rivet on both sides thereof. One side **28'** of the slot extends substantially along the junction or fold line **18**, indicated in dotted lines in FIG. 2, to form a portion of the rear upper edge **25'** of the pocket **20**. The other side **28''** of the slot **28** is curved radially about the center of the rivet **27** such that its periphery is contiguous at one portion with the central portion of the side **28'** when the back flap **13** is in its unfolded position shown in FIG. 2. As best appears in FIG. 5, on folding of the back flap **13**, the slot **28** is at a slight incline transversely of the junction **18**. The arcuate length of the slot is predetermined in that, depending on the width of the strap **26**, the strap is free to swivel about the rivet **27** through approximately a ninety degree arc across the face of the holster **10** (FIG. 2). In the present embodiment, the length of the slot **28** is approximately twice the width of the strap **26**.

Having passed the strap **26** through the slot **28** whereby it is in the position of FIG. 2, the free end **31** of the strap is attachable to the front of the holster by means of a snap fastener device **32**. The stationary part **32'** of the device **32** is secured to the outer side of the upper widened front wall portion **33** at a location approximately in alignment with the rivet **27** longitudinally of the holster relative to the straight edge **14'** formed by the fold **14**. Thus, by securing the strap **26** in the aforesaid manner, the strap forms a loop (FIGS. 1 and 3) which extends transversely across the open top **29** of the pocket **20**, and which is pivotally movable longitudinally of the top **29** in an arc of approximately ninety degrees, with the rivet **27** and the fastening device **32** acting as pivots.

In use, assuming the holster **10** is being worn by the user in the normal manner; with the strap unsnapped, a pistol **16** or the like (FIG. 6) is inserted into the holster until a snug fit is obtained. The particular pistol **16** illustrated herein is provided with a hammer **34** at a location common to all pistols, and, as the pistol **16** has a conventional grip, its trigger guard **36** is exposed in its entirety. It may readily be seen, therefore, that the strap **26** may be looped over either the hammer **34**, as shown in full lines in FIG. 6, or over the trigger guard **36**, as shown in dotted lines in FIG. 6. Should the pistol be of a type wherein the grip is unconventional or modified in a manner to merge with the trigger guard **36**, the capability of the strap **26** to be looped over the hammer of this type pistol is unimpaired.

Should the user desire to remove the strap **26** from either pistol retaining position, the strap may be placed behind the rear wall **12** of the holster and held there by means of the flap **13** (FIG. 5). To accomplish such placement, after unsnapping the back flap **13** (FIG. 4), the free end **31** of the strap **26** is unsnapped at **32** and inserted through the slot **28**, whereby the strap is reversed upon itself to form a reverse loop **37** (FIG. 4). Having shoved the end **31** through the slot **28** a sufficient amount so that the element **32** has passed through the slot (FIG. 4), the end **31** may be grasped by the fingers and pulled away from the slot **28** until the entire strap **26** has been pulled therethrough to a position between the back flap **13** and the rear wall **12**.

The strap **26** may then be retained against the outer side of the rear wall **12** in a position shown in FIG. 5 by resnapping the back flap in place by means of the strap **21**. In this position, the strap **26** is not visible from the front of the holster **10**.

To relocate the strap **26** from its position in FIG. 5 to that of FIG. 2, the strap **21** is unsnapped so as to free the back flap and the free end **31** of the strap **26** is inserted through the slot **28** and toward the front of the holster, the strap being reversed upon itself. Again, when the end **31** has been forced back through the slot so that the fastening element **32** has also been forced therethrough, the end **31** may be grasped by the fingers and pulled away from the slot until the strap **26** is in the position of FIG. 2.

Although one embodiment of the invention has been disclosed herein, it is particularly noted that the invention pertains to a product of leather or like material which is manufactured in a variety of slightly varying embodiments in order to service a like variety of hand firearms. It is intended, therefore, that various modifications and changes may obviously be resorted to without departing from the full scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

A firearm holster for holding a conventional pistol which has a hammer and a trigger guard, comprising a front wall and a rear wall forming a pocket therebetween which is open at one end and in which the pistol is receivable, said rear wall including a flap portion extending beyond the open end of the pocket and joined at one end thereof with said rear wall adjacent said opening and foldable at the junction with said rear wall to position the outer side of said extended flap portion, face to face with the outer side of said rear wall, means for maintaining the flap portion in the folded condition, an elongated slot formed along said junction at substantially the middle of the one end of said flap portion, a connecting means on the outer side of said flap portion at a location thereon so as to face said rear wall and centered relative to said slot, and an elongated retaining strap pivotally attached at one end to said connection, said slot having a length at least twice the width of said strap and curved slightly concave relative to said connection, said strap, from said one end, being insertable through said slot and passable transversely across said open end for the detachable connection of the other end thereof to the outer side of said front wall whereby to form a loop over said open end, whereby in said loop formation the strap is movable relative to the end connections thereof in approximately a ninety degree arc longitudinally of and through said slot, wherein at the ends of the arc said strap is movable to a looped position either over the hammer or the trigger guard of the pistol.

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