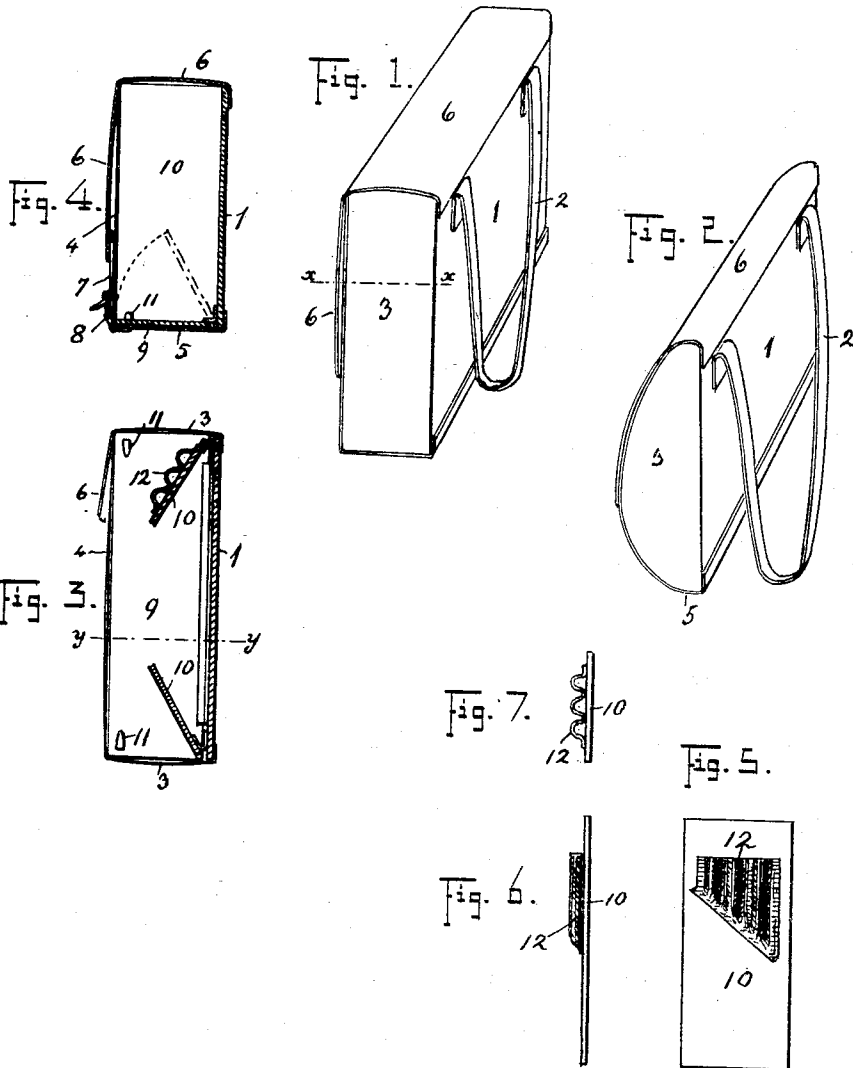


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 FLEXIBLE OR RIGID HAND BAG.  
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1,273,875.

Patented July 30, 1918.



WITNESSES:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## FLEXIBLE OR RIGID HAND-BAG.

1,273,875.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 30, 1918.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EMANUEL KOSTA, a citizen of the United States, residing at Monticello, in the county of Green and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and useful Improvements in Flexible or Rigid Hand-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide a hand bag or luggage carrier which can readily be changed from a rigid structure to a flexible one. Another object is to provide a bag which can readily be interchangeable so as to vary the carrying capacity of the same.

Another object of the invention is to provide a bag in which the frame members are collapsible or foldable so as to vary the nature of the bag.

These and other objects will clearly present themselves after reading the following specification in connection with the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bag in the so called rigid condition, Fig. 2 is a similar view of the bag showing the same changed into a so called flexible bag, Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view on line  $x-x$  Fig. 1, Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line  $y-y$  Fig. 3, Fig. 5 is a front elevation of one of the hinged side frame members, Fig. 6 is an edge view and Fig. 7 is a top view of said frame member.

In the drawings numeral 1 designates a rigid back to which is attached either a rigid or flexible handle 2, a flexible one being illustrated in the drawing. To this rigid back, at its two sides and bottom, is secured a flexible leather or cloth structure which constitutes the two side walls 3—3 the front wall 4 and the bottom 5 of the bag. To the top of the rigid back 1 is secured a flap member 6 which constitutes the top or cover for the bag. To the free edge of this flap 6 is secured straps 7—7 which engage fastening members 8—8 secured adjacent the bottom of the bag.

The structure so far described constitutes a so called flexible bag or in other words one in which the side walls are yieldable and the fastening straps may be drawn in more to cause a binding action between the articles carried and the front, bottom and corner of said bag. In this form of bag the goods contained therein are positively pre-

vented from relative movement. In the so called rigid type of bag either the two side members or the top and bottom members or all of said members are non-collapsible so as to retain the rectangular formation of the bag either in its fastened or unfastened condition. Bags of this general rigid type are commonly old but it is the purpose of my invention to provide a bag which may be readily interchanged from the rigid to the flexible type yet retain all of the characteristics of both types.

Within the flexible bag structure and hingedly secured to the bottom of the rigid back 1 is a rigid bottom 9, and to either side of the back 1 is similarly secured rigid side members 10—10. The dimensions of the rigid bottom and side members are such that when they are extended within the flexible bag all of the walls of the latter are under a slight tension. This positively removes all wrinkles and thereby greatly improves the outside appearance of the bag. In order that the tension that is placed on the outside flexible structure will not force the rigid bottom and side members to collapse lugs 11—11 are provided on the bottom member and behind these the side members are held. The bottom 9 is flexibly hinged to the back 1 so as to allow sufficient space between said back and bottom member for the side members when said bottom member is folded over the folded side members. Any suitable material may be used for the back, bottom and side members such as sheet metal, heavy leather, leather covered cardboard or other material that will not bend under ordinary conditions but will yield when undue pressure is exerted upon the exterior of the bag.

Pocket members 12 are provided on any one of the rigid members for the purpose of carrying articles.

To change from the flexible type of bag described in the first part of this specification to the rigid type all that is necessary to do is to first extend the rigid bottom member then the two side members forcing the latter over the locking lugs on the bottom member.

When the bag is to be changed back to the flexible type the bottom is slightly depressed till the lugs are clear of the side members, then these latter are folded inward against the back 1, then the bottom member

is folded upwardly overlapping the already folded side members.

While I have described the preferred form of my structure I wish it understood that certain deviations therefrom may be resorted to without sacrificing any of the spirit or scope of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. In an interchangeable bag of the class described having a rigid back member, a flexible structure secured to the rigid back constituting the front, sides and bottom of the bag, in combination with side and bottom members hingedly secured to the rigid back and arranged to be extended within the flexible structure to sustain the same when in one position thereby forming a rigid structure, said hinged members adapted to be folded over each other to form a flexible structure when in another position.

2. In an interchangeable bag of the class described having one rigid wall, a flexible structure secured to the said rigid wall constituting the front, sides and bottom of the bag, in combination with collapsible side and bottom members removably associated with certain walls of the flexible structure to sustain the same in a rigid state, said side and bottom members when collapsed providing a flexible structure, and means for locking the collapsible members in their extended position.

3. In an interchangeable bag of the class described having one rigid wall, a flexible structure secured to the said rigid wall constituting the front, sides and bottom of the bag, in combination with side and bottom members hingedly secured to the rigid wall and arranged to be extended within the flex-

ible structure to rigidly sustain the same when in one position, said side and bottom members adapted to be folded over each other to form a flexible structure, and lugs on the bottom member behind which the side members lock when all of the said members are in extended position.

4. In an interchangeable bag of the class described having a rigid back member, a flexible structure secured to the rigid back constituting the front, sides and bottom of the bag, in combination with side and bottom members hingedly secured to the rigid back and arranged to be extended within the flexible structure to sustain the same and thereby form a rigid structure, said side and bottom members arranged to be folded over each other and thereby form a flexible structure.

5. In an interchangeable bag of the class described having a rigid back member, a flexible structure secured to the rigid back constituting the front, sides and bottom of the bag, in combination with side and bottom members hingedly secured to said back member and adapted to be folded over each other to provide space for articles to be placed therein, and means secured to the free ends of the flexible structure for drawing said ends together whereby the size of the bag may be diminished and articles placed therein may be prevented from relative movement.

This specification signed and witnessed this 2nd day of Septbr., 1916.

EMANUEL KOSTA.

Witnesses:

FANNIE G. BENKERT,  
D. KLING.

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