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2,540,470

PURSE LIGHTER

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Fig. 1.

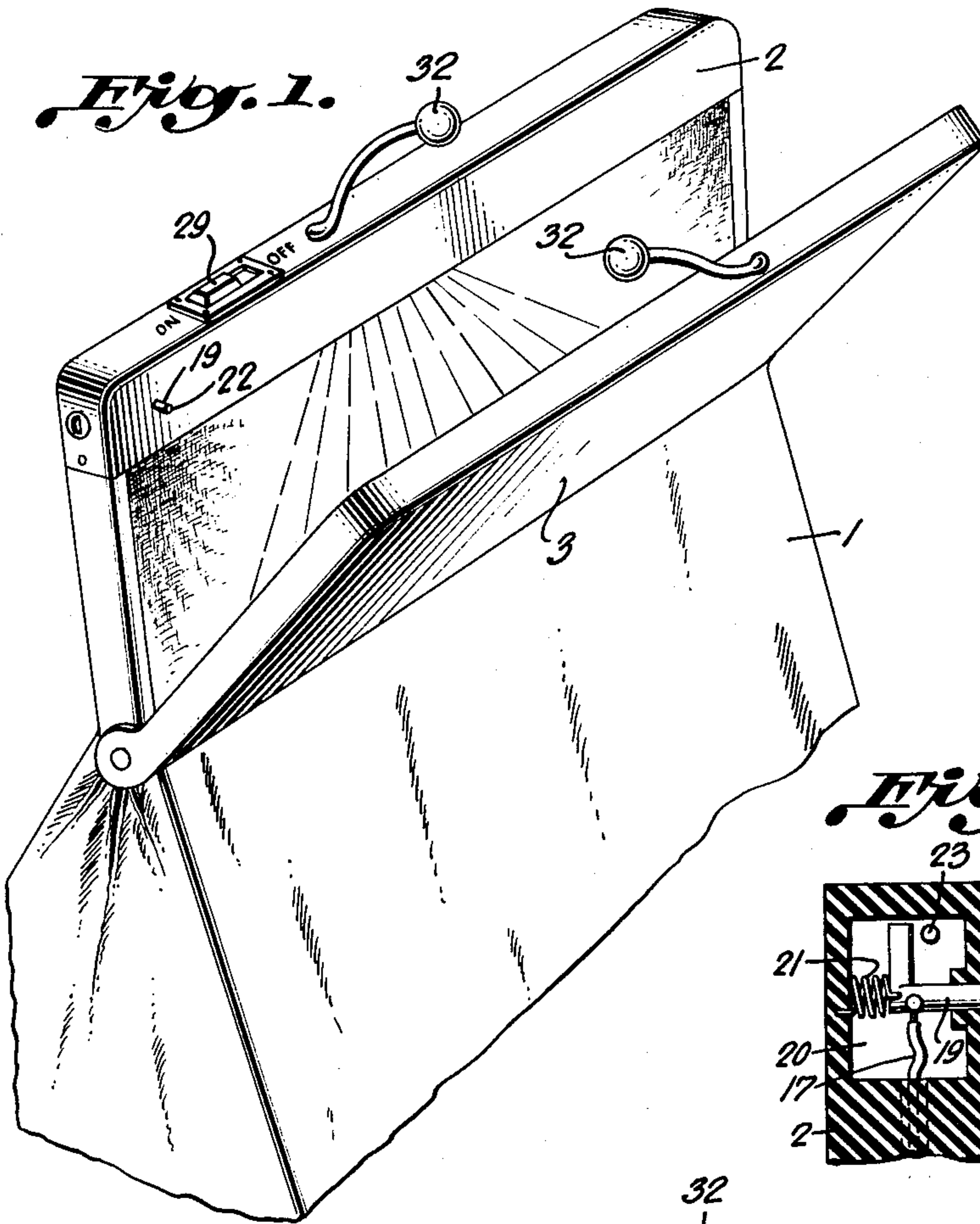


Fig. 4.

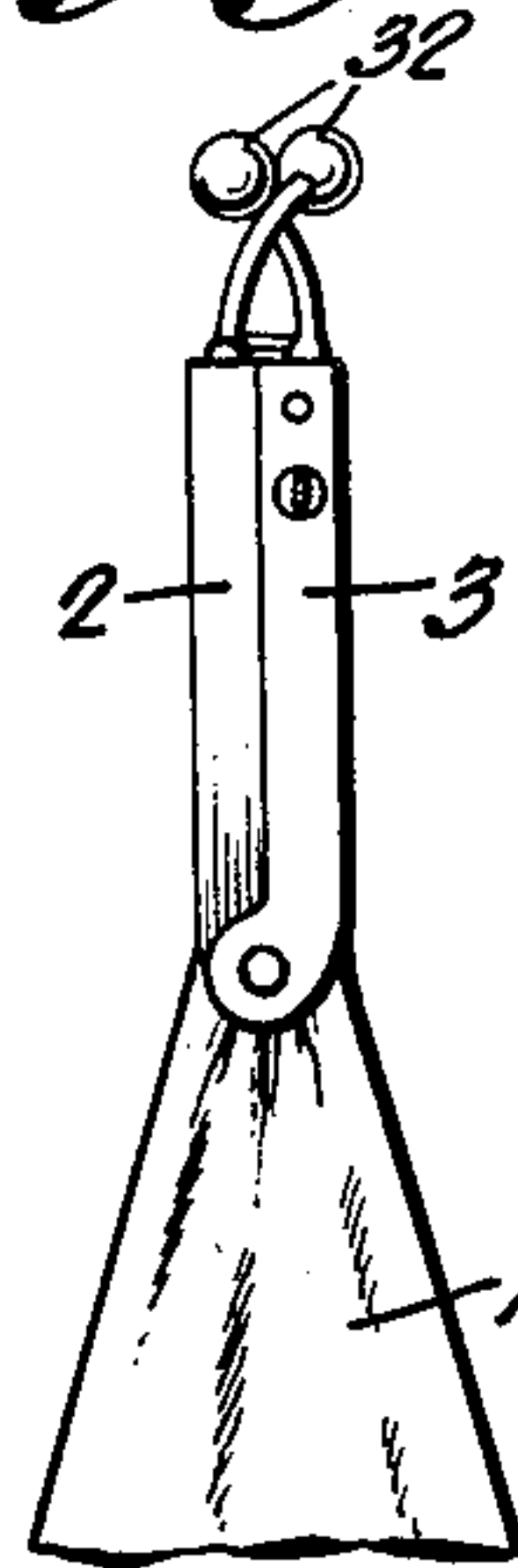


Fig. 3.

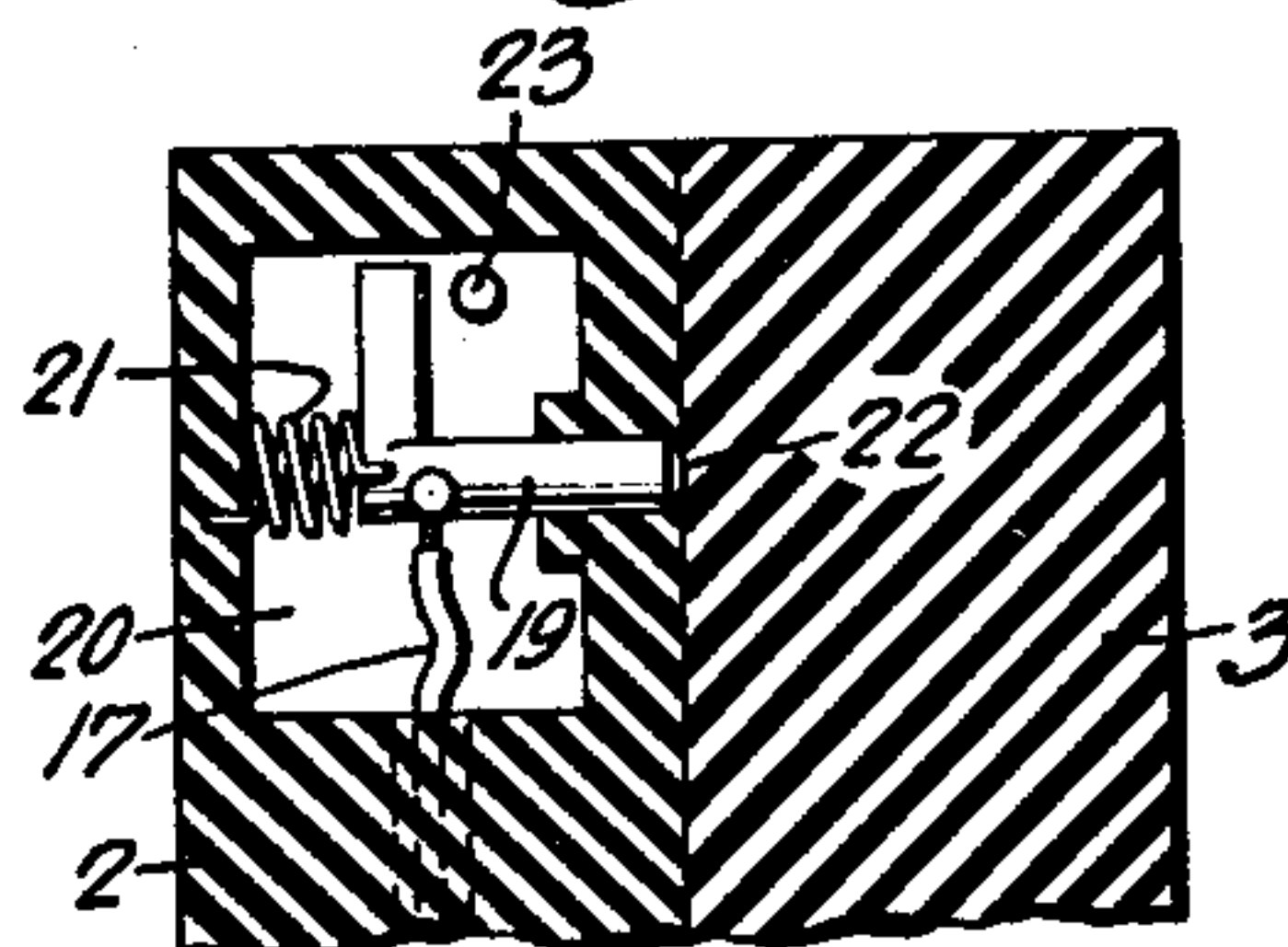


Fig. 2.

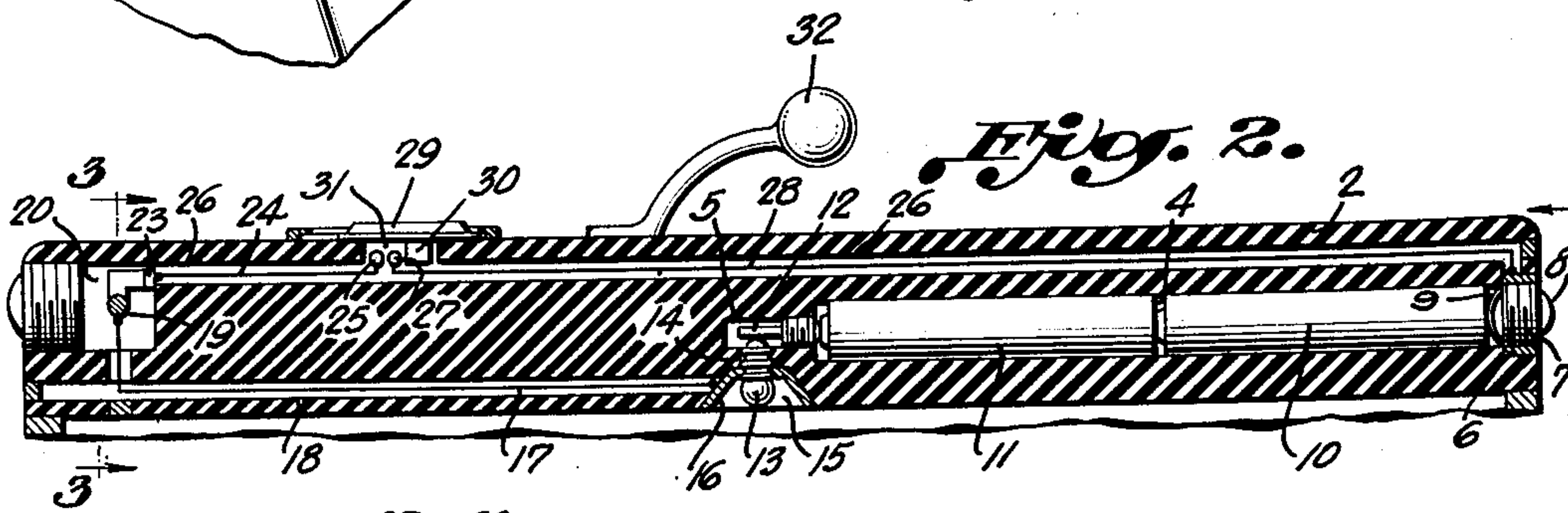
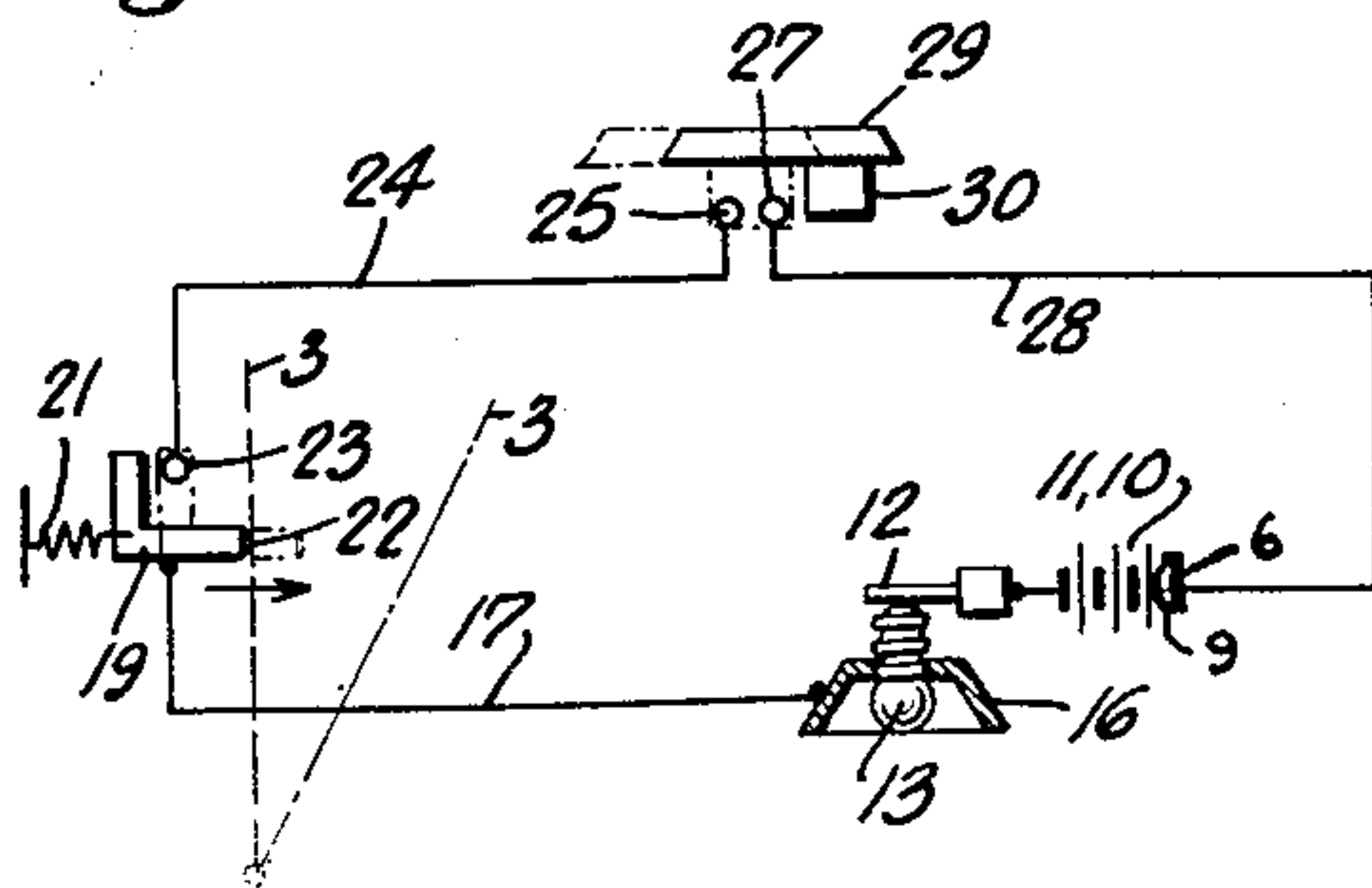


Fig. 5.



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PURSE LIGHTER

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This invention relates to purse lighters used in connection with handbags, pocketbooks, baggage and the like.

One of the objects of this invention is the provision of a handbag equipped with means for illuminating the inside of the bag or enclosure when it is opened.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a handbag which when opened automatically illuminates the interior portion thereof, and when closed prevents such interior illumination.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a handbag having means for automatically illuminating the interior portion thereof and also means for preventing illumination.

Other objects and features will more fully appear from the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a sectional perspective view of a handbag; Fig. 2 a fragmentary view of the bag showing the illuminating system disposed therein; Fig. 3 a sectional view along lines 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a fragmentary end view of the bag, and Fig. 5 is a diagrammatic view of the electrical circuit.

Referring to the drawings, a handbag or purse 1 of conventional or other preferred construction consists of jaws 2—3 pivotally connected together to form the mouth or opening of said bag. The jaws, which form the frame, are constructed preferably of material which is non-conducting with respect to electricity. As is well known in the art and is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the sidewalls of the bag are secured to the frame to form the pocket or container portion of the bag.

Disposed in the end portion of jaw 2 is a chamber 4 which adjoins the smallest bore portion or orifice 5. A threaded metallic ring 6 is secured in the outer end of said chamber in the largest bore portion thereof, and adapted to accommodate in threadable fashion a metal cover 7 provided with a handle 8 for fastening and unfastening said cover, to and from said ring. The cover has connected thereto a metallic spring 9 adapted to engage the metallic portion of a battery cell 10 that is electrically connected in series fashion to a battery cell 11; said battery cells being housed in chamber 4 and occupy an intermediate portion of the chamber 4 located between the smallest bore portion 5 and the largest bore portion. The intermediate portion of the chamber 4 has a cross sectional area smaller than the largest bore portion but larger than the smallest bore portion. These bore portions are preferably coaxial, however, it is merely essential that these

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bore portions be in direct longitudinal communication.

An electrical contact 12 is mounted in threadable fashion in orifice 5 and one of its ends engages battery cell 11 while the other engages one end of a lamp 13 mounted in threadable fashion in a socket 14 in said jaw. A chamber 15 houses the lamp and secured to its surface is a metallic reflector 16 which connects with the threaded portion of the lamp and one end of a wire 17 housed in a conduit 18. The other end of wire 17 connects with a switch 19 housed in compartment 20 in jaw 2; said compartment being closed by a removable plug; as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

Switch 19 is L-shaped and has secured to its base a spring 21, seated in said compartment, and the other end is mounted in reciprocal slidable fashion in a guide 22. When jaw 3 engages jaw 2, switch 19 is forced to compress the spring 21 and switch 19 moves out of engagement with the contact 23 that engages said switch 19 when the jaws are sufficiently opened the switch is closed; since the spring forces the switch against the contact 23.

Contact 23 has one end of the wire 24 connected thereto its other end being connected to the contact 25; said wire being housed in the conduit 26. A contact 27 connects one end of the wire 28 and its other end is connected to the metallic ring 6; said wire 28 is also housed in the conduit 26.

A manual switch 29 mounted upon jaw 2 in slidable "on and off" fashion and has a switch blade 30 depending therefrom into hole 31 in jaw 2, and when moved over contacts 25—27 closes an electrical circuit, hereinafter described, and when moved away from said contacts opens said circuit.

The purse is provided with the usual latching devices 32 and functions as follows:

Referring to Fig. 5, when jaw 3 (elevated position) of the bag is closed switch 19 is out of engagement with contact 23, and so also is the switch 29 out of engagement with contacts 25—27 when it is moved toward the "off" legend shown in Fig. 1. Naturally, the switches being in "open" position no current will flow; but when jaw 3 is open (see dotted line position switch 19) and switch 29 is moved to "on" position, current flows as follows: from battery cells 10—11 through contact 12, lamp 13, reflector 16, wire 17, switch 19, contact 23, wire 24, contact 25, blade 30, contact 27, wire 28, ring 6 and spring 9 engaging battery cell 10.

It is obvious that manual switch 29 is used

primarily by the operative for disconnecting the electrical circuit when no illumination is desired, and particularly in the day time when such light is not ordinarily needed. It is also obvious that when jaws 2—3 are open sufficiently to provide for switch part 19 to engage contact 23 (switch blade 30 being closed) the lamp is lit and reflects the light rays down into the bag portion thus illuminating the inside of the bag or purse.

It can now be readily understood that I have produced a novel and compact device comprising a complete lighting mechanism located in a single jaw of a purse or hand bag. The single jaw being formed of electrical insulating material constituting a receptacle and insulated support for the electrical equipment or lighting mechanism.

The insulating material may be of hard rubber plastic or any other suitable plastic composition. This electrical insulating composition lends itself to both the molding or machining processes of construction or to a combination of such processes.

As heretofore stated, this invention is not to be limited to the particular illustration but is intended for adaptation to other types of bags which may fall within the scope of this invention as claimed.

Dry-cell batteries are usually best adapted with this invention and by removing cover 7 they may be easily inserted into chamber 4.

Having described this invention, what is claimed is:

1. A handbag comprising a pair of movably connected closure jaws, one of said jaws being electrically equipped with a complete electric lighting means to illuminate the interior of the bag, the upper portion of said electrically equipped jaw comprising a rectangular body of electrical insulating material as long as said jaw, said electrically equipped jaw being provided with a longitudinal bore portion, longitudinal conduits and a compartment, said compartment having a removable closure and being in direct communication with said conduits, said bore portion extending inwardly from one end of its body and terminating intermediate the ends of said body, said bore portion having different transverse dimensions comprising a smallest bore portion, a largest bore portion and an intermediate bore portion, said intermediate bore portion being located between the smallest bore portion and the largest bore portion, the smallest bore portion having an electrical contact secured therein, the intermediate bore portion receiving battery cells, said largest bore portion having an electrical contact ring secured therein, said ring having a removable closure therein constituting an electrical conductor to electrically connect a battery cell with said ring, said electrically equipped jaw having a transverse cavity portion therein extending upwardly from the bottom side of said jaw and intersecting said smallest bore portion, said transverse cavity portion having an outwardly flared contour into which a combined shield and reflector is seated and secured, said shield being provided with means therein to receive an electric light bulb and detachably maintain it therein to constitute an electrical connection between the shield and the electrical contact aforesaid, said

electric lighting means having an automatic switch and a manually operated switch interposed therein, said automatic switch being located in said compartment, said compartment having guide means in one of its walls located next adjacent the other jaw, a movable part of said automatic switch extending from said compartment through said guide means into the path of the other jaw, said manually operated switch being located on said electrically equipped jaw for selective manipulation.

2. The construction set forth in claim 1 in which said electric lighting means is provided with electric conductors extending through said conduits and connecting the switches to each other and to both the shield and the contact ring, said conductors comprising bare plain uninsulated wire.

3. In a handbag construction and electric lighting equipment therefor, the construction comprising a handbag jaw, the upper portion of said jaw comprising a rectangular body of electrically insulating material extending throughout the full length thereof, said body having therein a longitudinal bore portion, longitudinal conduits and a compartment, said compartment being in direct communication with said conduits, said bore portion extending from one end of said body to the central portion thereof, said bore portion having three different transverse dimensions comprising a smallest bore portion, an intermediate bore portion and a largest bore portion, said smallest bore portion being centrally located in said body and supporting an electrical contact secured therein, said largest bore portion being located in one end of said body and having an electrical contact ring secured therein, said intermediate bore portion being located between the other bore portions, said body having a transverse cavity portion extending upwardly from the bottom side of said body and intersecting said smallest bore portion, said transverse cavity portion being flared outwardly and receiving a combined shield, reflector and electrical lamp bulb socket secured therein, one of said conduits having a transverse opening therein accommodating a switch, said compartment having a guide opening in one of its walls receiving and guiding a movable part of an additional switch.

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