

J. M. HUNTER.
Safety-Pocket.

No. 217,222.

Patented July 8, 1879.

Fig. 1.

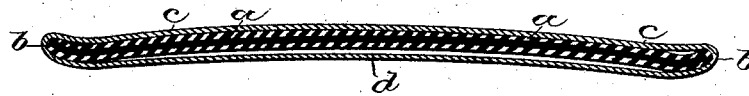


Fig. 3.

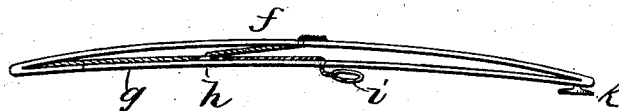


Fig. 2.

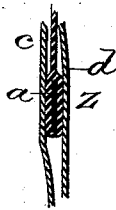


Fig. 4.

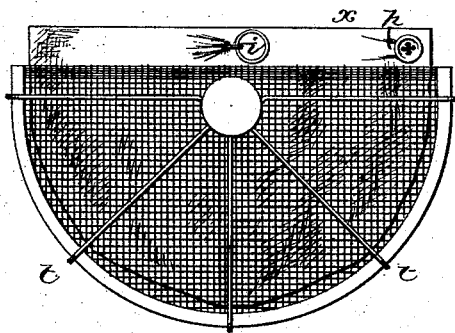
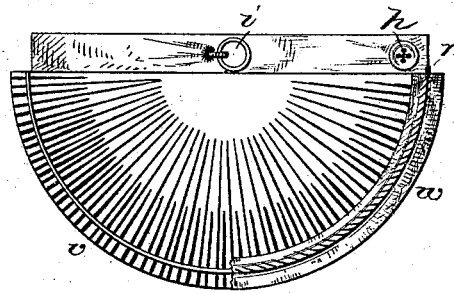


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. HUNTER, OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY-POCKETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,222**, dated July 8, 1879; application filed August 10, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN MORRISON HUNTER, of Morristown, in the county of Morris and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Safety-Pockets, which I term a "Specie and Safe-Deposit Spring and Lock Pocket," and which is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a horizontal section through the bow-spring at opening of pocket. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the pocket. Fig. 3 is a modified form of single bow-spring lock-pocket. Fig. 4 is a modification showing the combination of bow-spring opening and pocket of metal fabric. Fig. 5 is a modification of metal-fabric pocket.

The object of my invention is to supply an ample, convenient, and safe receptacle for bulky silver, valuable papers, the watch, and other valuables when conveyed upon the person, and for which the ordinary pocket and pocket-book are wholly inadequate and insecure, as well as most inconvenient.

In the drawings, *a* is a bow-spring, which, at its extremities *b*, curves in a direction opposite to the general arc of the bow. This bow I cover with some soft fabric, such as thin canton-flannel, with the down turned outward, and this again I cover with a colored muslin, made of such width as to extend to the top or opening of the pocket. For this purpose any suitable cement may be employed.

c is a band, made fast to one end of bow and then tightly bent over the arc into said bow and firmly secured to its opposite extremity. *d* is a supplemental sack formed in the space immediately below the bow-spring of the main pocket.

Both coverings of the bow extend beyond the extremities *b* of said bow, and are then turned over the ends and into the cavities of the small curves, where they are bound down by a strong linen thread, the band *c* also passing over the ends of bow in an opposite direction. Said ends are thus thoroughly shielded, thereby preventing any damage to person or clothing.

The bow form of spring and band not only supply a means of opening and closing the mouth of the pocket, but also, as they conform

to the shape of the body of the person, prevent abrasion of the cloth of the coat or an unsightly bulging of its exterior, and the ends *b* of the bow-spring turn slightly in a direction opposite to the general arc of the bow, prevent abrasion and bulging of the lining of garment, and also afford a hold at each end of bow-spring by which the coverings of said spring and the band *c* are made fast.

For the above reasons a straight spring is impracticable. Besides, the rigidity of such a pocket necessitates its being in a bow form and of considerable length in order to allow of sufficient opening; then it obviates the use of india-rubber or other elastic fabric, which would soon stretch beyond its tension, and so cease to be of any use for this purpose, while the sulphur used in vulcanizing india-rubber changes metal to a black color, and thus renders it inapplicable for a specie or watch pocket.

Fig. 3 is a modification of lock-pocket designed chiefly as a vest watch-pocket, and of such nature that a watch cannot be suddenly abstracted by a thief without the knowledge of the owner, said watch being caught by the bow-spring and then thrown into the closed sack or pouch, where it is held fast. The cord *f*, passing through and across the opening of the pocket, is caught by an elastic band, *g*, through which it passes at *h*. This elastic band pulls back the cord out of the way when the pocket is open, but yields when the ring *i* at the end of cord is put onto the button *k*, at outer end of spring on the inside of vest.

With ladies, the cord or wire key of lock-pocket should extend to belt, on which the button *k* is best located for holding the ring *i* of cord or key.

The bow-spring *b* is best made of steel, but may be of hard india-rubber, or celluloid, or whalebone, or wood, or any other suitable elastic substance.

The band *c* is best made of a linen tape or other firm inelastic material; but for some purposes it may be of shirred elastic or india-rubber or other elastic substance.

This pocket may be made without any separate band, the side of pocket opposite to bow-spring acting as a band, and the bow may be inclosed in a casing formed out of the mate-

rial of the pocket; but in such case the strain comes upon the pocket, which is an objection.

The metal casing, Fig. 4, is best made of wire-cloth, the sides being soldered together at the edge and having a wire-edge finish. Wires *t*, best made of steel, are bent over this edge, and which act both as springs and as guards to prevent pocket from being cut.

The metal spring-pocket, as represented in Fig. 5, is made of sheet metal cut into strands *v*, and are best made of very light sheet-steel cut and stamped into form by a die, and then tempered and nickel-plated. The ends of cut strands are placed between two band-wires, *r*, by which arrangement the necessary elasticity may be had for opening and closing the pocket. The said ends of the strands are covered with some suitable material, *w*, bound over the edge of the pocket and attached to the band-wires *r*, or the ends of the strands may be soldered together with a wire-edge finish, as shown in the metal casing, Fig. 4.

Metal pockets should be lined with an inner pocket of silicia, *x*, or other suitable material to protect the hand against abrasion, and also covered by an outer pocket of suitable material to guard against wear of cloth or lining; also, pockets made of metal should have a curved form, corresponding with the form of the person, for the same reason and with the same object in view as has been stated in regard to the bow-spring.

The action of this pocket depends, in a considerable degree, upon the pouch or closed sack *d*, formed by the space between the bow-spring *a* and its coverings and the upper part of pocket *Z*.

In turning pocket with opening downward its contents (as heavy specie, &c.,) falls into the

said sack, which otherwise might be thrown out by its momentum, and also in attempting to draw a watch it catches inside the bow-spring, which then holds it unless said spring is first pushed back by the hand, the lock-cord having been loosened.

To render the bow-spring effective for this purpose, when a pocket is put into a garment the ends of spring should be sewed firmly down to the goods to avoid the risk of said spring being thrown out or pulled out of the mouth of pocket.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of bow-spring *b*, band *c*, and closed sack *d*, arranged to operate substantially as specified.

2. In combination with the bow-spring *b*, band *c*, and inclosing-sack *d*, the locking devices, consisting of the cord *f*, passed through the end of elastic band *g* and eyelet *h* to ring *i*, for attachment to button *k*, substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

3. In combination with bow-spring *b*, band *c*, and closed sack *d*, the metal-fabric pocket, with guard-springs *t* and edge-binding *w*, having an inner lining, *x*, of some suitable textile or other soft protecting material, substantially as described.

4. The combination of bow-spring *b* and of band *c*, made of metal or other resistant non-elastic material, and inclosing-sack *d*, arranged to operate substantially as specified.

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Witnesses:

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