

Claims

1. Wallet comprising two shell elements, e.g. halves which are associated by connection means such that they can move
5 relative to one another such that a part of the one shell element, e.g. boundary edge, can move away from the corresponding part of the other shell element to open and close the wallet.

2. Wallet according to claim 1, comprising an open position
10 and a closed position, in the closed position providing an elongated sleeve like shape, in the open position the shell elements (5) make a mutual sharp angle, the shell elements (5) are merely connected to each other along a single edge (11), also providing a hinged connection providing a rigid spine,
15 in the closed position the inner space of the wallet is open to the environment via three of its four edges (13), which four edges provide a rectangular shape when viewing towards one of the main faces (5) of the wallet, the wallet moves between the open and closed position by pivoting at the spine (11).

20

3. Wallet according to claim 1 or 2, containing an object, e.g. a bunch of keys (2), which object, e.g. bunch is anchored to the wallet by retaining means (6), which retaining means can move between a retracted position, completely within the
25 wallet and also the associated object, and an extended position, at least partly projecting outside the wallet and also the associated object, the wallet is designed to be selectively opened or closed both if the retaining means are in the retracted or extended position.

30

4. Wallet according to any of claims 1-3, having a resilient or elastic means biasing the wallet to the open position, preferably provided by a foil or sheet or membrane material, e.g. skin.

35

5. Wallet according to any of claims 1-4, having one or more main faces having an area allowing temporary outward bulging

by elasticity, delimited, preferably completely circumferentially, by rigid boundaries, such that said area immediately springs back into the initial unloaded state at the time the bulging load is removed.

5

6. Wallet according to any of claims 1-5, wherein the object retaining means carry a bunch of keys and the assembly of object retaining means and bunch of keys is designed to move between the retracted and extended position merely when the wallet is
10 in an open position.

7. Wallet according to any of claims 1-6, comprising an elastically resilient foil (12) covering both shell halves (5) and extending from the one shell halve (5) to the other shell
15 halve (5) via the spine (11) and being pre tensioned by at least 5% yield both in the closed and open position of the wallet such that both in the open and closed position of the wallet the shell halves (5) are biased in the direction of moving from the closed to the open position of the wallet.

20

8. Wallet according to any of claims 1-7, at least one shell halve (5) comprises a plate metal space frame (7) of rectangular shape which provides the boundaries (13) of the shell halve (5) and also provides the external boundaries of a single window
25 (15) which is covered by foil (12) such that the wallet has rigid boundaries (13) and main faces (5) that, in the area of the foil, can be outwardly bulged by bulky contents within the closed wallet.

30 9. Wallet according to any of claims 1-8, the foil is fixedly attached to the edges (13) of the main faces (5) opposite the edges that are hingedly connected and lay loose at the other edges.

35 10. Wallet according to any of claims 1-9, the foil (12) has a rectangular shape, is pre tensioned such that it is elastically yielded for at least 10%, is wrinkle free, is easy

pleadable and foldable, has a dimension in the direction parallel to the orientation of the pivot shaft, which orientation is parallel to the longitudinal edges (13) of the wallet, equal to or not more than the dimension of the shell 5 halve (5) in the same orientation.

11. Wallet according to any of claims 1-10, the foil allows an elastic yield of at least 100% and provides an elastic bias of at least 0.5 Newton and not more than 5 Newton for 1 millimeter 10 yield for a sheet of 100 millimeter length and 100 millimeter width, the foil thickness is at least 0.25 and not more than 1.7 millimeter, the foil allows an elastic yield in the one direction parallel to the face of the foil that is at least 50% different from the elastic yield in the perpendicular 15 direction parallel to the face of the foil, such that the foil has an anisotropic yield behaviour, wherein the direction in which the foil allows lowest yield is parallel to the wallet pivot axis (11) and the foil is braided from elastic yielding yarns.

20

12. Wallet according to any of claims 1-11, provided with a mechanical stop (14) integrated in the hinge (11) to limit the opening angle to less than 90 degrees.

25 13. Wallet according to any of claims 1-12, the hinge (11) is shaft less and the shell halves (5) have edges at the hinge (11) shaped such that they have mutual form fit to allow the pivoting movement and they have a loose mutual engagement and are kept in mutual engagement and are kept pressed against each 30 other, while fitting into each other, by the bias of the foil.

14. Wallet according to any of claims 1-13, when hand held, the closed wallet feels solid while at the same time a main face can be squeezed like a sponge by the finger tips and the 35 enclosed key can be sensed through the main face while the solid sense is due to the fixed length and width and thickness provided by the rigid edges while the wallet in the unloaded, closed

position provides the image of a container having flat and smooth main faces, while when packed with a stack of keys beyond the original thickness (i.e. the wallet thickness if unloaded) of the closed wallet, one or both main faces are bulged outward and the skin is such that, when the wallet is packed with a stack of keys beyond the original thickness, the skin obtains a relief making the object visible through the skin by a coining or embossing effect of the skin.

10 15. Wallet according to any of claims 1-14, wherein a to the retaining means (6) connected object (2) is absent.

16. Wallet according to any of claims 1-15, having a length between 80 and 120 millimeter, a width between 30 and 60 millimeter and a thickness between 5 and 30 millimeter, if unloaded and closed.

17. Method of operating the wallet according to any of claims 1-16 wherein, starting from the closed position, the wallet is held in a single hand and the operating button is operated by a finger of said hand such that the lock is released such that the wallet, by the bias of the foil (12), automatically moves to its open position and is kept in said position by continued bias of the foil and then the retaining means are moved from the retracted to the extended position such that the retaining means and also the object associated with the retaining means are brought outside the wallet and then, while the retaining means and its associated object remain outside the wallet, the wallet is closed against the bias of the foil by squeezing the shell halves (5) together by action of the fingers of said single hand wherein the pre tension of the foil (12) increases at least 2.5% while moving from the opened to the closed position of the wallet.

18. Method according to claim 17, wherein the retaining means are moved to the extended position by a wrist movement of said single hand.