

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PORTABLE ACCESSORY CASE

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9 Claims. (Cl. 190—11)

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This invention relates to a manually portable accessory case and more particularly to such a case or kit which provides an extendable platform therein and compartments for accessories.

The general utility of such a case or kit resides in its use for some particular purpose. While the invention is not limited to a particular use, it is herein illustrated and described with relation to a manually portable case providing a platform for supporting an infant while performing the usual attentions which are required, and providing receptacles and compartments to receive the required accessories. Everyone who has had the responsibility of caring for an infant while temporarily away from the usual conveniences at home realizes the advantages of having available a convenient platform on which the infant may be placed for necessary attentions, and having equally convenient the necessary accessories for such a purpose. If the case is employed for attending the needs of an infant, manifestly the accessories in the compartments would be selected for that particular purpose, though manifestly if the case were to be employed for a different purpose the accessories in the compartments may be appropriately varied.

Broadly the invention comprises a manually portable case substantially of the hand luggage type, having a platform and a plurality of underlying compartments arranged to support the overlying platform, and a telescoping enclosing cover member hinged in the plane of the platform whereby the cover member may be swung on the hinge so that its planar top is coplanar with the platform and provides an extension thereof, the case having means to support the cover in such coplanar position. Ancillary to such platform and cover, certain of the compartments may have therein trays hingedly mounted at one end to swing from their normal position underlying the platform to a position underlying the opened cover, and to serve as the support means for the cover when the cover is swung back coplanar with the platform.

The objects of the invention are to provide an interfolding accessory case convenient for manual transport and having a platform therein enlargeable upon opening a cover for the case.

A further object is to provide in a manually portable inter-folding case having a platform therein, hingedly mounted tray compartments to receive accessories, and adapted for swinging to a supporting position for a coplanar extension of the platform.

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Another object is to provide a manually portable accessory case having a platform therein and a plurality of storage compartments nesting thereunder, and a cover member having its planar top hinged in the plane of the platform and having side panels for telescopically enclosing the compartments or nesting trays therein when the cover is closed over the platform.

One form in which the invention may be embodied is described herein and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, it being understood that variations of details may be resorted to without departing from the invention which is defined in the appended claims.

15 In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the case in closed position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the case in an open position, and tray members at a swung-back position supporting the cover.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the case in an open position, with trays nested within the case.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of the rear wall of the case.

25 Fig. 5 is a vertical section on line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary enlarged plan view of the rear end of one tray, and shows its hinge connection to the rear wall of the case, an overlying platform member being removed.

30 Fig. 7 is a vertical section on line 7—7 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawing in which like reference characters indicate corresponding parts in the several views, the manually portable case of the invention generally indicated 9 is provided with a bottom section generally indicated 10, in which 11 is a planar bottom wall extending substantially the length and width of the bottom section. A platform 12 overlies the bottom in spaced parallel relation and is substantially of similar shape and area as the bottom. The platform is supported in such spaced relation by suitable perpendicular supporting walls which provide storage space between the bottom wall and the platform. Preferably such storage space is divided into several compartments, in which event the platform may be supported by a pair of relatively spaced longitudinal central walls 13 each of which is spaced inwardly from a side edge of the bottom wall. Further support for the platform is provided at the rear by transverse rear wall 14, and at the front by vertical front wall portions 15, the latter extending from the relatively spaced longitudinal walls 13 to the adjacent side edges of the perimeter of bottom 11 and platform 12. Thus, there are provided between the

bottom wall and the platform three compartments of the longitudinal depth of the bottom section 10. These compartments are designated a central compartment 16 open at the front wall and closed at its sides and rear by the respective longitudinal walls 13 and rear wall 14, and an elongated side compartment at each side of the central compartment, designated respectively, 17 and 18. The side compartments 17, 18 are each closed at front by front walls 15, at rear by rear wall 14 and along the inner elongated side by one of the longitudinal central walls 13, the side compartments each being open at their outer longitudinal side opposite the central wall 13. At the open side of one or more of the compartments, there may be provided a conventional edge retaining strip 16a to prevent articles from falling from the compartments.

However, as an additional advantageous feature in the present invention, it is preferred to provide in the side compartments 17, 18, trays generally indicated 19 and 20, which are hinged for swinging into and out of the side compartments. These trays are of a size to fit snugly slidable into the side compartments 17, 18 of the bottom section. The trays 19, 20 are provided with a bottom wall 21, end walls 22, 23, one side wall 24, and an edge retaining strip 25 at the opposite side, the end walls and the one side wall 24 preferably being substantially the height of the compartment, slidable clearance being allowed, and the edge strip being of lesser height. The trays are therefore open at the top, and also at one side above the retaining strip 25 whereby easy access may be had to the trays. When the trays are nested within the side compartments 17, 18, the side wall 24 provides a closure wall for each of the side compartments 17, 18 flush with the corresponding side edge of the bottom wall and platform. The partially open side of each tray confronts one of the central compartment walls.

In this connection it is to be noted that if the trays are employed, it is preferred that the rear wall 14 of the bottom section shall be of lesser length than the entire width of the bottom section, and thereby have its opposite ends terminating short of the side edges, as at 26, 27, to the extent of the width of one leaf of each of the butt hinges 28, 29 which are mounted at said opposite ends of the rear wall. One leaf of each hinge is secured to the respective opposite ends of the rear wall and the other leaf is secured to the end wall 22 of one of the trays 19, 20. The pintles of the hinges are thus inset by the leaves from the higher elongated side wall of the tray, and are similarly inset from the corresponding side of the bottom section. In order that the end wall 22 of the tray may snugly conform to the plane of the corresponding confronting end portion of the rear wall, the end wall of the tray may be deformed by a planar offset 22a, or, if desired, the end wall 22 may be in a right plane and a furring strip may be inserted between the hinge leaf and the tray end wall.

A hinged cover member generally indicated 30 is provided for telescopically enclosing the platform and the sides and front of the bottom section when the case is closed. The cover member has the usual planar top 31 of sufficient size and appropriate shape to cover the platform 12, as well as having side strips 32, and front strip 33, of slightly greater height than the height of the bottom section, the rear side of the cover member being open to provide a rear edge of the cover

top which is hingedly mounted at the rear edge of the platform, as by hinge 34, the hinge axis of which substantially coincides with the rear edge of both cover and platform and with the upper edge of the rear wall of the bottom section. One leaf of hinge 34 may therefore be connected to either the rear edge of the platform or to said upper edge of the rear wall, the latter being preferred, and may extend substantially the entire length of said rear edge between the tray hinges 28 and 29, and is thus substantially in the plane of the platform 12, so that when the cover is swung back 180 degrees from its closed position, the inner face of the planar top is an extension of, and coplanar with the platform 12.

While the cover hinge 34 as well as tray hinges 28, 29 are herein illustrated and described as having leaves, it is contemplated that such leaves may be an integral part of the member to which they are shown to be attached, such construction being well known in the sheet metal art by tubularly forming spaced ear portions at the edge of one sheet and similar ears spaced alternately at the confronting edge of another part, the tubular ears, when interengaged, providing a tube for a pintle.

Means are provided for supporting the cover member at such coplanar swung-back position. As hereinafter described, the trays may be employed to provide such support. However, in cases where the hinged trays are not employed in the device, or in the event that access is not desired to the trays, such support for the cover at its coplanar position may comprise a bracket 35 extending along the outer face of the front strip 33 of the cover and having arms 36 extending along the side strips 32 and pivotally connected thereto, the length of the arms 36 being substantially similar to the height of the bottom section, whereby, when the cover is hinged back to a co-planar position and the bracket 35 is swung perpendicular thereto, the planar top of the cover is supported at the same level as the platform 12. Any suitable stop member 37, preferably a spring latch type, may limit movement of the bracket beyond the center of its arcuate swing, and thus insure against its collapse at its supporting position.

However, in those devices in which the hingedly mounted trays are employed and it is desired to have access to the trays, the trays may be swung rearwardly on the tray hinges 28, 29 so that the side closure wall 24 underlies the swung-back cover, in which case the inset of the pintle of the tray hinges permits the side wall 24 of the tray to swing inwardly under the plane of the cover to the extent of the previously described inset of the hinge pintles. In any normal size of manually portable case an inset of approximately one inch is a sufficient inset for the hinge pintles. Manifestly, if the open opposite side wall 25 of the tray which confronts a central wall 13 when in a compartment 17 or 18, is swung around to an opposite position, such open side and top of the tray are exposed outwardly when the tray is in such swung-back supporting position. The contents of the tray are therefore accessible. In order that there may be no slippage of the tray from its supporting position under the swung-back cover, a lug, pin or other upraised member 38 may be provided adjacent the edge of the cover to engage the side wall of the tray upon which the cover rests.

A conventional suitable handgrip strap 39 is provided on the front strip of the cover, and a

locking strap 40 may be extended from the bottom section to engage the closed cover.

While the case may be employed for numerous purposes where both a platform and storage space are desirable, when employed for attention to infants, it is desirable to provide means on the platform and the cover extension thereof for holding a blanket, or a pad thereon. Such means may comprise triangular anchor plates 41 at opposite corners of the platform and underface of the cover top, one edge of the anchor being secured to the respective plates, and the opposite angle portion being free of and slightly spaced from the inner face of the cover top, whereby a tape on the pad or blanket may be slipped thereover. If the securing means of the anchors in the cover comprises rivets, the head of the rivets may protrude from the opposite face of the planar top and provide the lug 38 for stabilizing the positioning of the trays as supports for the swung-back cover. Due to the anchors coming in contact when the case is closed and the carrying of a folded blanket on the anchors, the cover member is of slightly greater height than the bottom section as previously stated.

When the cover top is swung back coplanar with the platform, the infant may be placed on the extended platform to change diapers, bathe, feed or clothe the infant, or for a temporary crib, the side and end strips of the cover providing walls around the planar cover portion of the extended platform to provide an effective guard rail for safety, while the platform portion 12 is free of such walls and permits operation free of interference in handling the infant.

In use, any desired accessory materials may be placed in the compartments, such as diapers or blankets in compartment 16, and nursing bottle, powder and oil, toys, etc. in the side compartments or in the trays. Or, if employed for an automobile traveling case, a thermally insulated bottle may be carried in each of the side compartments, or in the trays and food may be packed in the compartment 16; and when the case is open, the platform 12 may be employed for a table while food may be placed in the swung-back coplanar cover portion and shielded against displacement by the side and front strips of the cover, which thus serve as guard rails.

It is believed obvious that when the case is assembled for portability the cover member would be at a closed position. At such closed position the cover top overlies the platform 12, the side strips close the side compartments 17, 18, and hold trays therein if the latter are employed, and the front strip of the cover closes the open front end of the central compartment 16, thus providing a closed case of the hand luggage type readily portable by the handgrip 39.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new and patentable is:

1. A manually portable accessory case including a bottom compartment section having a compartment provided with an access opening in the vertical height dimension of said bottom section, a platform overlying the plane of said bottom section and providing a fixed top wall for said compartment, a cover member having a planar top mounted hingedly at its rear edge to the bottom section substantially in the plane of the platform and selectively swingable on the hinge connection from a position overlying the platform to a swung-back position coplanar with the platform, said cover having side strips and a front strip perpendicular to the planar top, said strips

closing the opening of said compartment of the bottom section when the cover is at a closed position.

2. An accessory case of the class described, having the elements of claim 1, and in which the bottom section has a plurality of compartments each of which has an access opening in the vertical height dimension of the perimeter of said bottom section, and in which the side strips and front strips of the cover close the openings of the compartments when the cover is at a closed position.

3. An accessory case of the class described, having the elements of claim 1, and in which there is provided a support means having substantially the height of the bottom section and adapted for supporting the cover member at such swung-back coplanar position.

4. A manually portable accessory case including a bottom section having a side compartment at each of its opposite sides and a central compartment therebetween, said compartments each having an access opening in the vertical height dimension at the perimeter of said bottom section, a platform overlying the plane of said bottom section and providing a fixed top wall for the compartments therein, a cover member having a planar top mounted hingedly at its rear edge to the bottom section substantially in the plane of the platform and selectively swingable on the hinge connection from a position overlying the platform to a swung-back position coplanar with the platform, said cover having side strips and a front strip adapted for closing the openings of the compartments of the bottom section when the cover is at a closed position, and a support means having substantially the height of the bottom section adapted for supporting the cover member at such swung-back coplanar position.

5. A device of the character described and having the elements of claim 4, and in which the side compartments are open at the opposite sides of the bottom section and the central compartment is open at the front thereof.

6. A manually portable accessory case comprising a bottom section having a side compartment at each of its opposite sides and a central compartment therebetween, said compartments being open at the vertical height dimension of the perimeter of the bottom section, a platform overlying the plane of the bottom section and providing a fixed top wall for the compartments therein, a cover member having a top mounted hingedly at its rear edge to the bottom section substantially in the plane of the platform and selectively swingable on the hinge connection from a position overlying the platform to a swung-back position coplanar with the platform, said cover having side strips and a front strip perpendicular to the planar top adapted for closing the compartment openings of the bottom section when the cover is at closed position, and tray members hingedly mounted to the rear wall of the bottom section and adapted for nesting in the said side compartments of the bottom section and swinging on said hinges to a supporting position underlying the swung-back cover.

7. An accessory case of the class described having the elements of claim 6, and in which the pintles of the tray hinges are inset from the opposite ends of the rear wall, whereby the trays may be swung from said side compartments to a supporting position underlying the swung-back cover.

8. A device of the character described having

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the elements of claim 6, and in which the tray members are open at the top and at one side and are closed at other walls, and in which the trays are hingedly mounted whereby when the tray is within a side compartment the open side of each tray faces inwardly, and when swung to support the open cover, the open side wall faces outwardly.

9. A device of the character described having the elements of claim 6, and in which the pintles of the tray hinges are inset from the opposite ends of the rear wall whereby the trays may be swung from said side compartments to a supporting position underlying the swung-back cover, and the tray members are open at the top and at one side, whereby when the tray is within a side compartment the open side of the tray faces in-

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wardly and when swung to support the open cover said open side faces outwardly.

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