Oct. 14, 1952 J. STAFFA 2,613,769

DRESS SEPARATOR FOR WARDROBE TRUNKS OR SUITCASES

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Fig. 1.

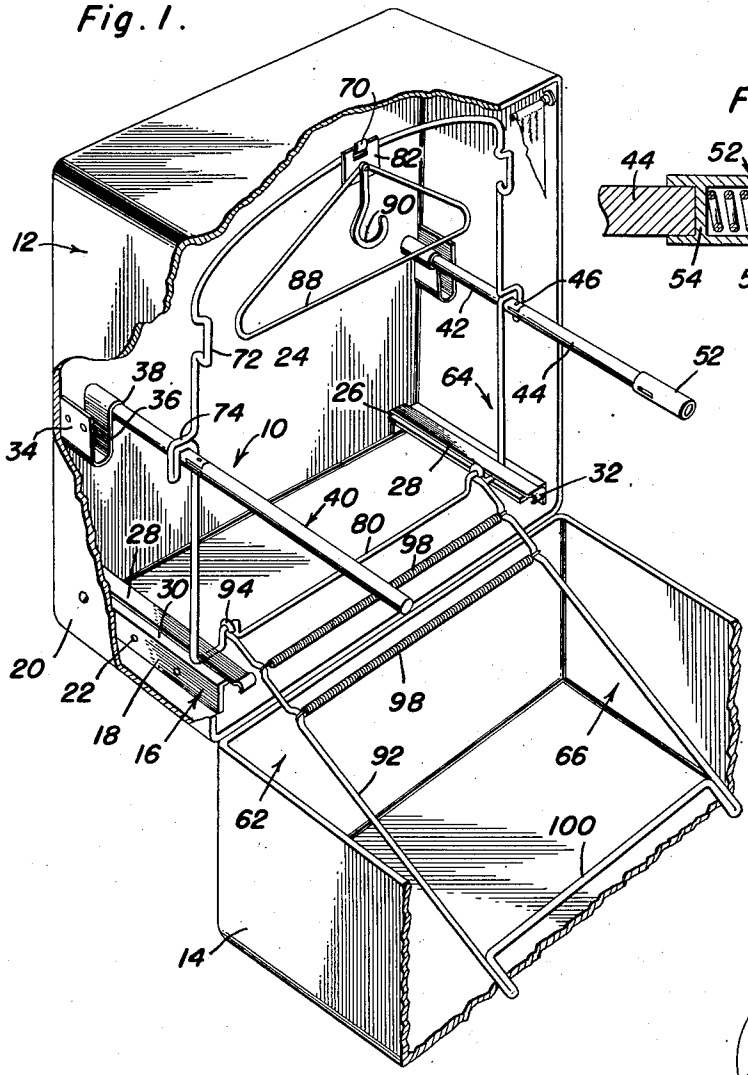


Fig. 3.

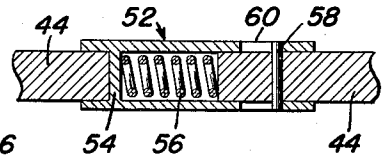


Fig. 7.

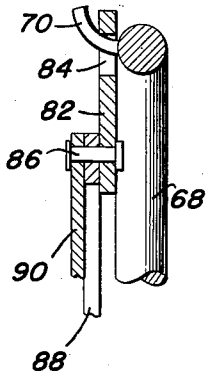


Fig. 8.

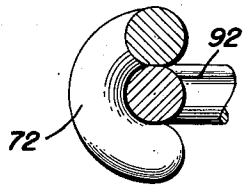
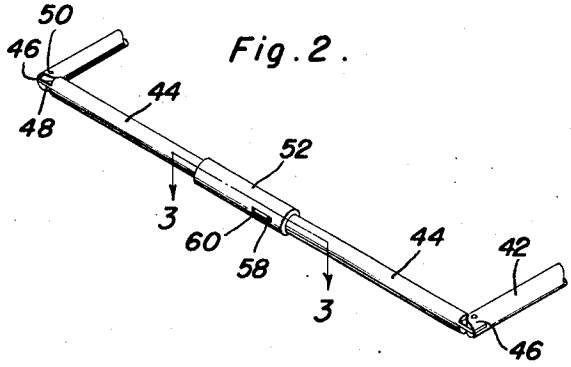


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 4.

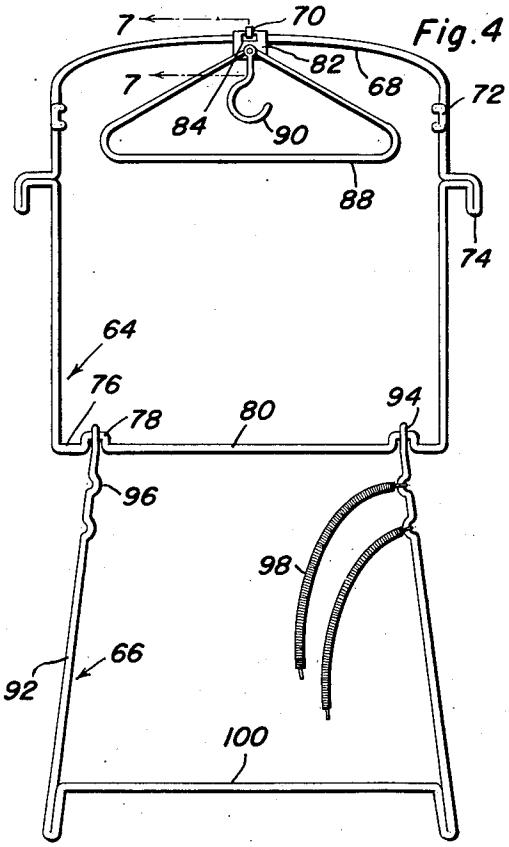


Fig. 5.

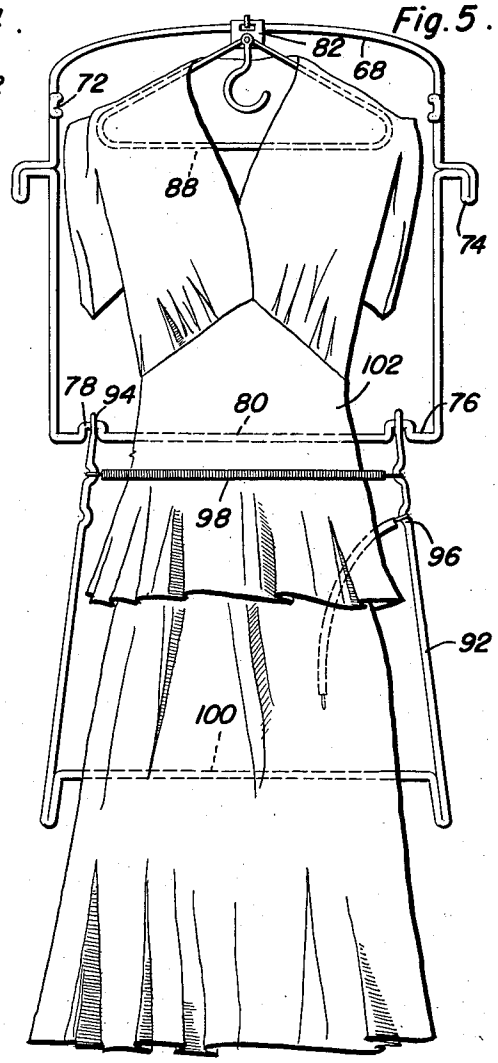
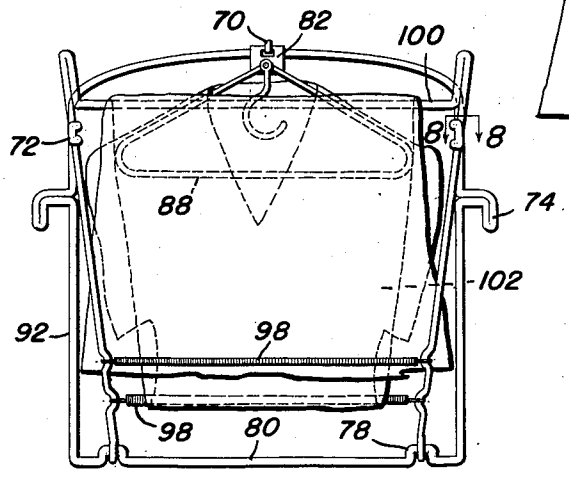


Fig. 6.



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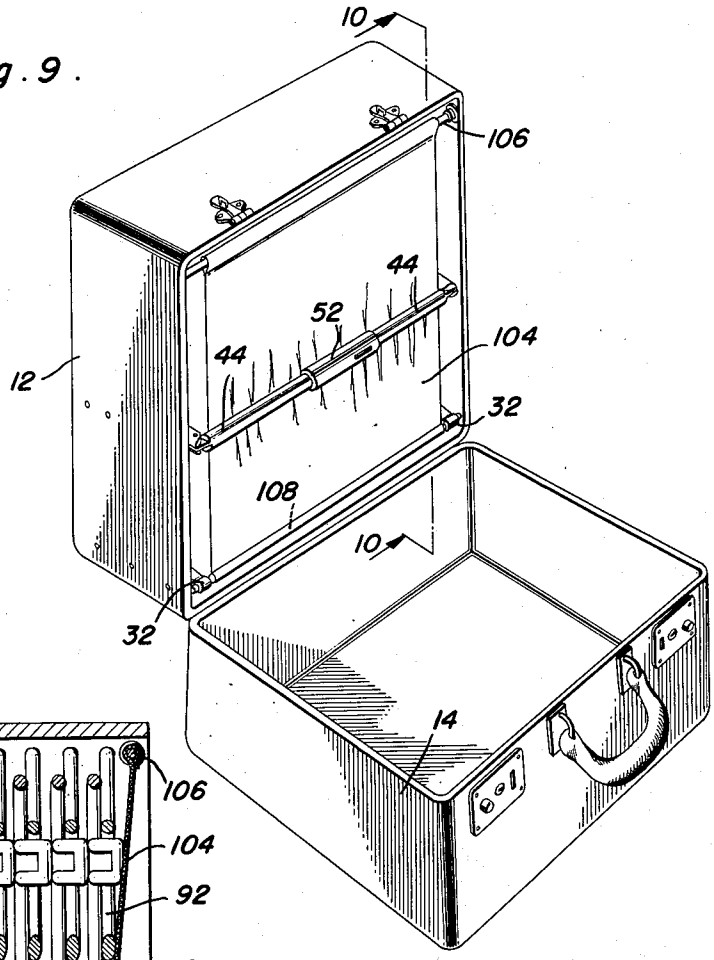
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Fig. 9.



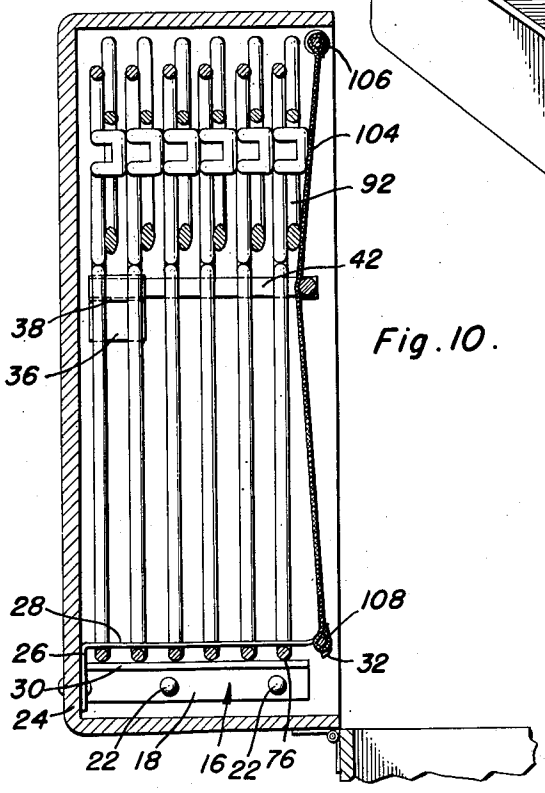


Fig. 10.

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DRESS SEPARATOR FOR WARDROBE TRUNKS OR SUITCASES

Joseph Staffa, Chicago, Ill.

Application June 24, 1948, Serial No. 34,912

6 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

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This invention relates to garment hangers for valises and trunks and is adapted to retain garments in a wardrobe container so that they will not be creased or moved about when the valise or trunk is in transit.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a wardrobe trunk including novel and improved means for retaining a plurality of garment holding frames in juxtaposition within the trunk.

Another object of the invention is to provide a wardrobe trunk having upper and lower guides for slidably receiving a plurality of garment holding frames, said upper guides including swingable outer sections which are engageable with each other to retain frames disposed on the upper and lower guides within the trunk. A further object of the present invention is to provide a wardrobe trunk of the aforementioned character including spring means overlying the lower guides for yieldingly retaining portions of the frames that are slidable on the lower guides against the lower guides.

A still further object of the invention is to employ the garment mounting means as a locking member in order to retain securely all articles mounted thereon against accidental displacement.

Other objects of the invention reside in the details of construction and in the combination of the various parts and in their mode of operation, as will hereinafter appear.

The following is a detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention, and is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the clothing hanging means in position in a suitable wardrobe;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the guide and locking means for the hangers;

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the lock of the guide and is taken substantially on line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a side elevation of a hanger of the invention;

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 4 and depicts an article of clothing mounted thereon;

Figure 6 is a view of the hanger of Figures 4 and 5, but in closed position;

Figure 7 is an enlarged detail of a portion of the hanger and is taken substantially on the line 7—7 of Figure 4;

Figure 8 is a horizontal sectional view, enlarged, of the catch for the bottom half of the

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hanger and is taken substantially on line 8—8 of Figure 6;

Figure 9 is a perspective view of the wardrobe with the retaining curtain in position and the hangers locked against movement; and

Figure 10 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken substantially on line 10—10 of Figure 9.

Referring to the figures, and particularly Figure 1, the invention is indicated generally by numeral 10 and is disclosed as being mounted in a top half 12 of a trunk or suitcase, top 12 being hingedly attached to a bottom 14 in the usual manner well known in the art.

A pair of spaced parallel elongated angle brackets 16 extend along the side walls 24 of the top 12 and adjacent the bottom thereof, when viewed in open position, as shown in Figure 1, depending legs 18 thereof being secured to the side walls 20 as by rivets or the like 22. The brackets 16 are spaced a short distance from the back wall 24 of the top cover 12 in order to receive depending legs 26 of a pair of horizontally extending flat retaining bars 28. The bars 28 overlie, in spaced relation, horizontal legs 30 of angle brackets 16. The bars 28 terminate slightly beyond the front end of the brackets 16 in arcuate spring-like catches 32, for a purpose soon to be apparent.

A U-shaped bracket including legs 34 and 36 is secured to each side wall 20 of wardrobe top 12 in vertical alignment with the angle brackets 16. Depending sleeve or journal 38 is integral with and is a lateral continuation of leg 36 and receives therein a combined retainer and guide rail or rod 40.

Rod 40 is formed in two sections 42 and 44, section 42 being forked at one end, as at 46, in order to receive a reduced flange extension 48 on member 44. A pivot pin 50 extends through the forked section 46 and flange 48 to permit guide member 44 to be swung laterally to the position shown in Figure 2, or to extend longitudinally, as is clearly evident from Figure 1. Thus, it is readily apparent that rod 40 may be used to both guide a suitable clothing hanger thereon into position within the trunk, and to retain such hangers in locked position while the wardrobe is in transit. It is to be noted that there are two guide rails 40, each positioned in aligned, opposed relationship in the top member 12 of a wardrobe or the like. One guide rail 40 has removably secured thereon, as will now be seen, a spring locking sleeve 52. Sleeve 52 is cylindrical in construction, and includes a wall 54 to limit the insertion of rail rod 44. A compression spring 56 is retained within the open inner portion and

permits a limited adjustment for the opposed rod 44 secured in sleeve 52 by means of a locking pin 58 extending into an elongated slot 60 at one end of sleeve 52.

A clothes hanger 62 is composed of two sections, an article mounting frame 64 slidable on guide rail 40, and an article retaining member 66 which is pivotally mounted on the frame. Article mounting frame 64 is formed from a single, continuous wire rod, and includes an arcuate top portion 68, portion 68 having integrally formed thereon a hook 70 medial the longitudinal length thereof. The extremes of arcuate section 68 are bent in a reverse C 72 for latching the article retaining member 66 thereto, bend 72 being resilient and laterally yieldable for that purpose. Article mounting frame 64 includes vertical sides having an inverted U-section 74 for sliding movement on rail 40 and is finally formed with short, horizontal legs 76 at the bottom thereof, each leg 76 including an offset 78 joined by means of a straight section 80. A hanger plate 82 is slotted at 84 to receive hook 70, and pivotally mounts, as by transverse pivot 86, a hanger 88 and hook 90 (Fig. 7).

Article retaining member 66 is also formed from a wire rod and has a U-shape configuration, each leg 92 thereof tapering slightly inwardly and terminating in an eye portion 94. The eye portions 94 are secured to offsets 78 in mount 64 for pivotal movement thereon. Legs 92 include spaced lateral offsets 96 adjacent eyes 94 to removably retain thereon coil springs 98. Springs 98, when extended transversely across rod 66 and into engagement with each leg 92, are adapted to retain an article of clothing in fixed position. Ends of legs 92 which are opposite to the eyes 94, are lapped upon themselves a short distance and are then extended transversely to form a fold bar 100.

From the above description, the manner in which individual hangers 62 are employed is readily apparent. Hanger 62 is removed from the wardrobe and is opened to the position illustrated in Figure 4. Plate 82, carrying hanger 88 and supporting hook 90, is mounted on hook 70. A suitable article of clothing, such as a dress or the like 102, is then hung from hanger 88. Of course, it is understood that dress 102 may have been placed on hanger 88 prior to it being secured to holder 62. The entire device, now containing an article of clothing, may be suspended vertically by means of hooks 90 or may be laid flat on a horizontal surface. Dress 102 is in the position illustrated in Figure 5 and overlies wire portions 80 and 100. Coil springs 98, detached at one end, as seen in Figure 4, are then secured to the corresponding notches 96 of the opposed leg 92 of retaining member 66, one spring 98 being placed on top of the article of clothing 102, the other being placed beneath it. Thus, it is readily apparent that members 100 and 98 cooperate to retain the article of clothing in immovable position. Holder 62 is then positioned in top 12 of the trunk or wardrobe by sliding U-member 74 on guide rail 40 and by sliding horizontal legs 76 between bar 28 and the leg 30 of angle bracket 16, retaining member 66 being then pivoted into latching engagement with C-ears 72, if not already in the position illustrated in Figure 6. It is to be noted that transverse member 100 functions as a fold and drape bar. As seen in Figure 10, as many as six clothing holders 62 may be placed within the wardrobe or trunk. When the desired articles of clothing have been positioned in the valise, a retaining curtain 104, having hems to receive an attaching rod 108 and a transverse mounting bar 106, the latter being secured to and extending between upper ends of the opposite sides 20 of the wardrobe, is dropped across the open side of top 12 so that the free ends of the rod 108 engage with the catches 32, thereby securing the clothing within. In order to insure against accidental displacement of the dresses or the like while in transit, rail members 44 are then pivoted, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 9, into locking engagement so as to provide additional assurance that the packed items will be retained in fixed position and without creasing or wrinkling.

While one complete embodiment has been described in detail, it is to be understood that various features of this invention may be independently used, and also that numerous modifications might be made by those skilled in the art, without departure from the scope of the invention defined in the following claims.

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

1. A wardrobe trunk comprising a housing, a pair of spaced parallel guides within said housing, a second pair of spaced parallel guides also within said housing and overlying said first-named pair of guides, a frame slidably mounted on all of said guides, means within said housing and overlying said first-mentioned pair of guides for yieldingly retaining said frame relative to said first-mentioned pair of guides, and means carried by at least one pair of said guides for confining said frame within said housing, said last-named means including a retaining bar extending between said first-mentioned pair of guides, said means for retaining said frame relative to said first-mentioned guides including a pair of arms having terminal hooks receiving and holding said bar.

2. A wardrobe trunk comprising a housing, a lower pair of guides mounted in said housing, an upper pair of guides also mounted in said housing and overlying and paralleling said lower guides, a frame slidably supported on all of said guides, means carried by the upper guides for confining said frame within said housing, means within said housing and overlying said lower pair of guides for retaining the frame on the lower pair of guides, and additional means engaging said retaining means for further aiding in confining the frame within the housing.

3. The combination of claim 2 wherein said frame includes first and second sections, said first section including a lower rail riding on said lower guides and vertical rails rising from said lower rail, a pair of detents formed in said lower rail, said second section being pivotally mounted on said detents, said retaining means overlying said lower rail and being received between said detents and said vertical rails, and interconnecting means between said frames holding the frames in juxtaposition.

4. A wardrobe trunk comprising a housing, a lower pair of guides mounted in said housing, an upper pair of guides also mounted in said housing and overlying and paralleling said lower guides, a frame slidably supported on all of said guides, means carried by the upper guides for confining said frame within said housing, means within said housing and overlying said lower pair of guides for retaining the frame on the lower pair

of guides, additional means engaging said retaining means for further aiding in confining the frame within the housing, and means carried by said frame for supporting a garment.

5. A wardrobe trunk comprising a housing, a lower pair of horizontal guides within the housing, an upper pair of horizontal guides within the housing paralleling and overlying the lower guides, a first frame section including a lower horizontal rail and a pair of vertical rails, hooks on said vertical rails slidably received on said upper guides, said lower rail riding on said lower guides, a pair of detents rising from the lower rail in spaced relation to the vertical rails, arms mounted in said housing overlying said lower guides and also overlying said lower rail to retain the first frame section on all of said guides, said arms being also received between said detents and said vertical rails to restrict lateral movement of said frame relative to said upper and lower guides, a second frame section pivotally mounted on said detents, interconnecting means between the sections for retaining the sections in juxtaposition, and means carried by at least one pair of said guides for confining said sections within said housing when the sections are retained in juxtaposition.

6. A wardrobe trunk comprising a housing, a lower pair of horizontal guides within the housing, an upper pair of horizontal guides within the housing paralleling and overlying the lower guides, a first frame section including a lower horizontal rail and a pair of vertical rails, hooks on said vertical rails slidably received on said upper guides, said lower rail riding on said lower guides, a pair of detents rising from the lower rail in spaced relation to the vertical rails, arms mounted in said housing overlying said lower guides and also overlying said lower rail to retain the first frame section on all of said guides, said arms also being received between said detents and said vertical rails to restrict lateral movement of said frame relative to said upper and lower guides, a second frame section pivotally mounted on said detents, a horizontally swinging arm carried by each of said upper guides, interconnecting means between said horizontally swinging arms to retain the horizontally swinging arms perpendicular to said upper guides and to retain said frame sections within said housing, interconnecting means between the sections for retaining the sections in juxtaposition, garment holding means mounted on said first frame section, and means extending across said frame sections when the frame sections are in juxtaposition and engaging said first-mentioned arms to confine said frame sections within said housing.

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