April 29, 1952 B. A. LEVITT 2,594,569

GARMENT BAG

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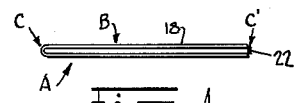


Fig. 4.

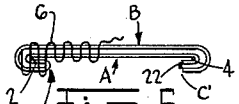


Fig. 5.

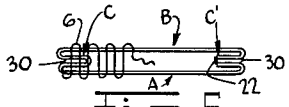


Fig. 6.

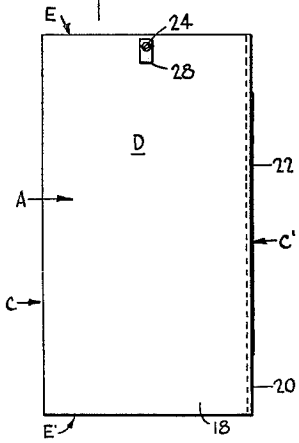


Fig. 1.

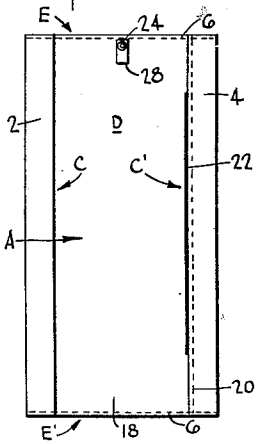


Fig. 2.

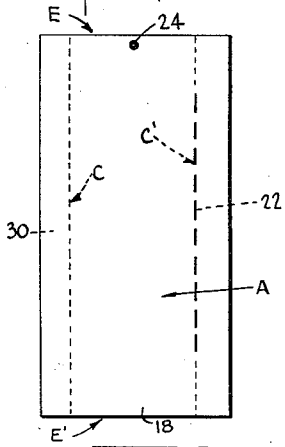


Fig. 3.

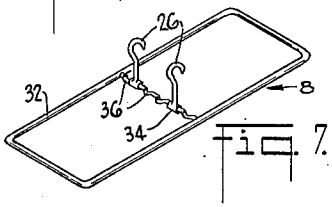


Fig. 7.

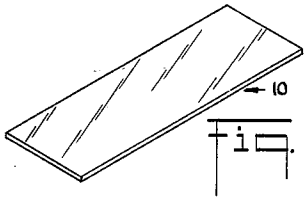


Fig. 8.

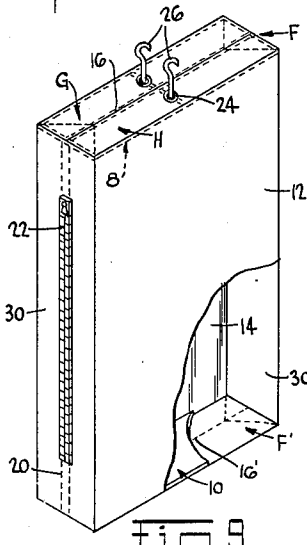


Fig. 9.

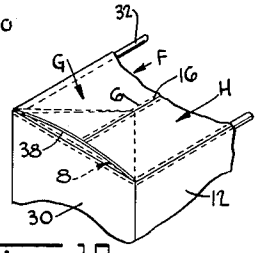


Fig. 10.

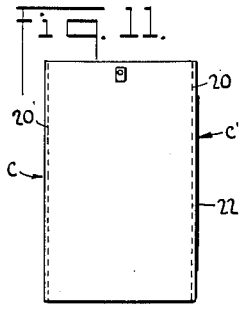


Fig. 11.

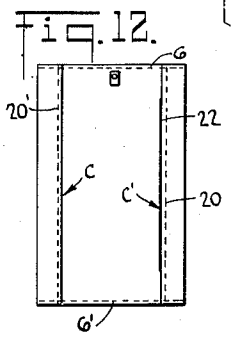


Fig. 12.

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GARMENT BAG

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Original application February 27, 1947, Serial No. 731,206. Divided and this application May 27, 1950, Serial No. 164,806

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—1)

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This invention relates to a garment bag of improved construction.

This application is a division of my previous application Serial No. 731,206, filed February 27, 1947, now Patent No. 2,524,982, entitled, "Method of Manufacturing Garment Bag."

Garment bags into which various articles of clothing may be placed for protective purposes, which bags are adapted themselves to be hung in closets or the like, take many forms. The most common of these forms comprises a rectangular cross-section so that the individual garments may be individually hung and removed from the garment bag preferably through the side thereof without the necessity of removing the entire garment bag from its suspension. Such bags have been formed of cloth and, more recently, of plastic sheeting, the cloth or plastic sheeting defining the walls of the bag and being maintained so as to define a rectangular or any other desired cross-section by means of suitable framework disposed at the top and optionally at the bottom of the bag.

Garment bags of this nature have become exceedingly popular commercial-wise but as constructed heretofore they present certain potential defects which render them more or less inefficient in the attainment of their designed end.

One of the purposes of such bags is to protect the clothing stored therein from the effects of dirt and moisture in the air. Obviously the more seams involved in the formation of the bag the less protection is afforded against these deleterious influences. As ordinarily constructed, the top, bottom, front, back and side walls of the bags are of separate strips or sheets of material each of which is joined to the adjacent strip or sheet at each of its edges by means of a seam. This means that a bag with a rectangular cross-section will have twelve seams. Even if the front, back and side walls be formed of a single sheet of material suitably joined together at a single seam, the total number of seams in the garment bag is only reduced to nine.

Moreover, those seams which are most susceptible to spreading or unsealing, to wit, the seams at the edges of the top and bottom walls of the container, are not eliminated. While the weight of the bag itself is generally inconsequential, it quite often happens that garments become disengaged from within the bag and fall to the bottom thereof and the far from inconsequential weight of these garments is then supported almost exclusively by the seams joining the top and bottom walls to the other walls. This

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strain is applied directly to the seams under discussion, particularly because those seams conform to the configuration of the top and bottom frames which give shape to the garment bag.

In addition to these inherent constructional defects, impelling economic considerations mitigate against the prior art construction. A very substantial portion of the cost of manufacture of a garment bag resides in the assembly thereof and in particular in the seaming thereof. Thus, any method of construction which would minimize the number of seams is obviously commercially advantageous. In the past it has been necessary, when joining the top or bottom wall of a garment bag to the front, back and side walls thereof, to form four separate seams corresponding to the four sides of the top or bottom surface in four separate operations. As soon as one seam was completed, it was necessary for an operator to turn the fabric 90° so that the next seam might be formed. To attach both the top and bottom, eight separate operations were necessary.

Moreover, the problem of providing a plurality of sheets of different sizes called for considerable tailoring work and required an extensive inventory.

It is the prime object of the present invention to provide a garment bag of improved construction having a minimum of seams.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide such a bag in which the seams are so located with respect to the framework of the garment bag as to minimize the strains applied thereto during use of the bag.

Another object of this invention is to provide such a bag formed of a minimum of separate sheets of material, and in the preferred embodiment, of but a single sheet.

While the present invention is herein described with particular reference to a garment bag, it will be appreciated that in its broader aspects it relates to any hollow container formed of flexible material and to the method of forming the same. It will also be apparent that when the term "seaming" is used, any type of seaming may be employed. As herein specifically described, the seaming is accomplished by means of a stitching or sewing operation, but it will be appreciated that when thermoplastic sheeting is employed, the seaming may be accomplished by heat-sealing, either alone or in addition to stitching. Other variations of seaming will no doubt suggest themselves, such as the use of adhesives or softening solvents.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing ob-

jects and such other objects as may hereinafter appear, the present invention relates to the construction of a garment bag as defined in the appended claims and as set forth in the specification, taken together with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figs. 1, 2 and 3 represent elevational views of successive stages in the formation of the garment bag of the present invention from a single flexible sheet;

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are top views of Figs. 1, 2 and 3, respectively;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the top frame for the garment bag;

Fig. 8 is a similar view of the bottom frame;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a completed and expanded garment bag made according to the present invention with parts thereof broken away;

Fig. 10 is a detailed view on enlarged scale of the side wall-top wall joint formed therein; and

Figs. 11 and 12 are views corresponding to Figs. 1 and 2 but showing stages in the formation of a garment bag from a plurality of sheets of flexible material.

The method of making the garment bag of the present invention will first be described, the resultant improved construction of said bag becoming apparent as the method is developed. That method, considered in its broad aspects, comprises superimposing two layers A and B of flexible sheeting (Figs. 1 and 11). This sheeting may be cloth, either plain or ornamented, or any of the well known plastic sheetings now on the market.

The sides C and C' of the two-ply formation thus produced are then folded over the body portion D thereof (Fig. 2) so that at the thus formed edge sections **2** and **4** a four-ply formation is produced. One or both of the end edges E or E', which edges are preferably linear, are then seamed as by stitching **6**, this seam including all of the plies of the folded edge sections **2** and **4** and of the body D. The resultant structure is then turned inside out.

When the thus formed bag is caused to expand so that its top and bottom surfaces conform to the desired outline, as by the use of top frame **8** and bottom frame **10**, it is found that for example the top and bottom walls F and F' of the bag are each composed of two portions G and H (Figs. 9 and 10), each of which are integral extensions of the front and back walls **12** and **14** respectively, these two portions being joined together by a single straight seam **16** intermediate said end wall F.

It will be noted that by this method of construction only a single seam is necessary to form the top of the garment bag, this seam being linear so that it may be made in a single seaming operation, thus materially decreasing the cost of manufacture of the bag, and that the seam is so located on the finished garment bag that any strain imposed by the weight of articles on the bottom of said bag is insulated from said seam by the action of the frame **8** or **10**, the frames taking much of the strain and thus ensuring that the seam will remain firm and thus prolong the life of the bag and enhance its protective effect.

Figs. 1 through 10 illustrate the preferred embodiment of the present invention in which a complete garment bag is manufactured by forming but three seams. A single sheet **18** of flexible material is first reversely folded on itself so as to define the two-ply formation illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4. The side C' thereof is initially open and

that side therefore must be seamed as by the stitching **20**, this seaming operation being so carried out as to incorporate in the thus formed seam an opening and closing means generally designated **22** which may specifically take the form of a "zipper" or slide fastener as illustrated in Fig. 9. This opening and closing means **22** provides for access to the interior of the container for removal and insertion of garments and also, in the formation of the container, provides an opening for a purpose hereinafter to be described.

The sheet **18** is preferably provided with a pair of eyelets **24** for cooperation with the suspending hooks **26** of the frame **8**, and the sheet **18** may be interiorly re-enforced by means of fabric tabs **28**.

As illustrated in Figs. 2 and 5, the sides C and C' of the folded sheet of Fig. 1 are folded over the body D thereof an amount equal to one-half of the desired depth of the container, that is to say, one-half the desired width of the top wall F and of the side walls **30** thereof. The top and bottom end edges E and E' of the thus folded formation are then linearly seamed as by the stitching **6** and **6'** (Figs. 2 and 5). The thus formed object is then turned inside out via the opening in side C' provided by the opening and closing means **22**. This condition is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 6 and represents a collapsed garment bag having a front wall A, a rear wall B and infolded side walls **30**, the top and bottom end edges E and E' of all of said walls being linearly seamed together.

The collapsed garment bag of Fig. 3 may be expanded and caused to assume its desired shape by inserting therein, through the opening provided by the opening and closing means **22**, the top and bottom frames **8** and **10**. The former of these may consist of a metal framework **32** of desired shape having a cross-bar **34** provided with a plurality of corrugations **36** adapted to receive the hooks of hangers on which garments are mounted so that said garments may be suspended within the garment bag, and with suspending hooks **26** so mounted as to project up from the cross-bar **34** through the eyelets **24** of the sheet **18** so that the garment bag itself and the garments stored therein may all be suspended from the hooks **26**. The frame **10** may be a thin cardboard, plywood or metal sheet of appropriate shape.

The construction of the garment bag as described is such that, if properly designed, the bag itself upon expansion will closely conform to the frames **8** and **10** without the necessity of any special steps. It will be noted that when this conformation has taken place, tucked-in portions **38**, best shown in Fig. 10, will form at the junction of the side walls **30** and the top and bottom walls F and F'. These tucked-in portions constitute integral extensions of the side walls **30**.

The garment bag of Fig. 9 has by this method been constructed of a single flexible sheet with but three seams, one intermediate of one of the side walls **30** and containing the opening and closing means **22** and one intermediate each of the top and bottom walls F and F', the latter being defined by the stitching **6** and **6'** as here illustrated. The saving in time and expense involved in forming three rather than twelve seams is obvious. Furthermore, both of the top and bottom seams **16** and **16'** are inset from the edges of the top and bottom frames **8** and **10** so that any strain applied to the bag because of articles

resting on the bottom thereof is primarily resisted by the integral and unseamed portions of fabric which are adjacent to the metal framework **32** or the sides of the bottom frame **10**. The seams **16** and **16'** will therefore be insulated from said strain so that the life of the bag and its protective action toward the garments stored therein are materially increased.

Although to form a container from a plurality of sheets rather than from a single sheet involves the making of at least one additional seam, and to that limited extent detracts from the benefits of the present invention, it is sometimes necessary or desirable that this mode of construction be employed, as for example, where single sheets of sufficient size for a complete container cannot commercially or economically be obtained. The first two stages of such a mode of construction are illustrated in Figs. 11 and 12, which correspond to Figs. 1 and 2, and it will be apparent that the only difference involved over the method previously described is that the edge C must be seamed as by stitching **20'**. Otherwise the stages of construction are identical and need not be here repeated. It will also be apparent that each of the individual sheets which are superimposed one on the other may itself be formed of any desired number of individual strips or sheets.

By the method of construction above described a garment bag or other hollow container may be more expeditiously and economically formed than has heretofore been possible and the container produced thereby is possessed of desirable structural features which eliminate or migitate many of the defects inherent in containers of this type which have heretofore been manufactured. Not only is the container thus produced enhanced in strength and durability by virtue of the location of its seams, but its protective action is also intensified by virtue of the minimum number of seams embodied in its construction and by virtue of the fact that they are so located that their tendency to part is minimized.

The particular embodiment of container here illustrated, a garment bag of conventional shape, is merely illustrative of the many applications to which my invention can be put and therefore many variations can be made in the details of

the method steps and constructional features here shown without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A garment bag comprising a tubular sheath adapted to have a substantially rectangular cross-section when open so as to define front, back, side and end walls, said sheath having a longitudinal seam with an opening therein, a linear seam securing the edges of said sheath at one end thereof, the outer portions of said linear seam engaging quadruple thicknesses of said longitudinally seamed sheath, and said sheath being turned inside out and given a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape, the parts of said sheath engaged by the outer portions of said linear seam being tucked in and under the end walls proper when said sheath is opened to rectangular cross-section.

2. A garment bag comprising a tubular sheath adapted to have a substantially rectangular cross-section when open so as to define front, back, side and end walls, said sheath having a longitudinal seam with an opening therein, a linear seam securing the edges of said sheath at an end thereof, the outer portions of said linear seam engaging quadruple thicknesses of said longitudinally seamed sheath, said linear seam being on the same side of said sheath as said longitudinal seam, and said sheath being turned inside out, so that both said seams are on the inside, and given a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape, the parts of said sheath engaged by the outer portions of said linear seam being tucked in and under the end walls proper when said sheath is opened to rectangular cross-section.

BENJAMIN A. LEVITT.

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