March 27, 1945. G. E. LOFGREN 2,372,439

GARMENT BAG

Filed Oct. 6, 1942 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

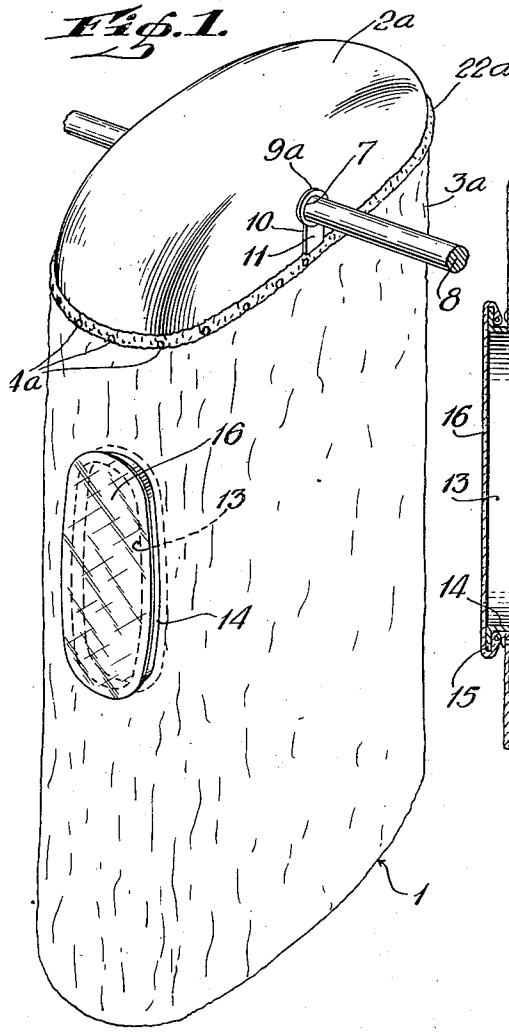


Fig. 2.

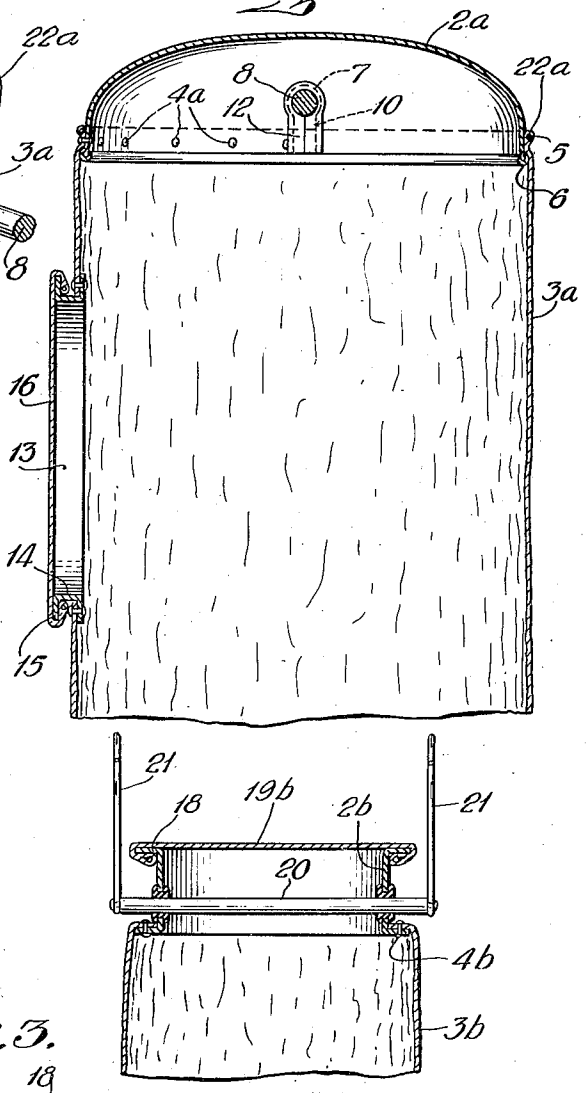


Fig. 3.

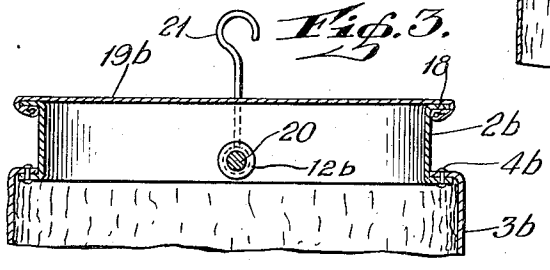


Fig. 4.

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Fig. 5.

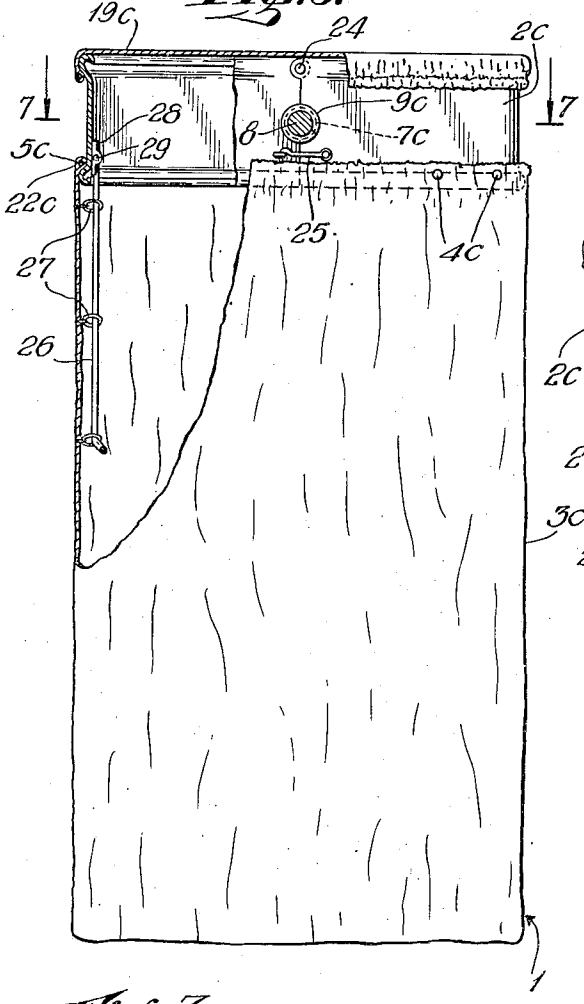


Fig. 6.

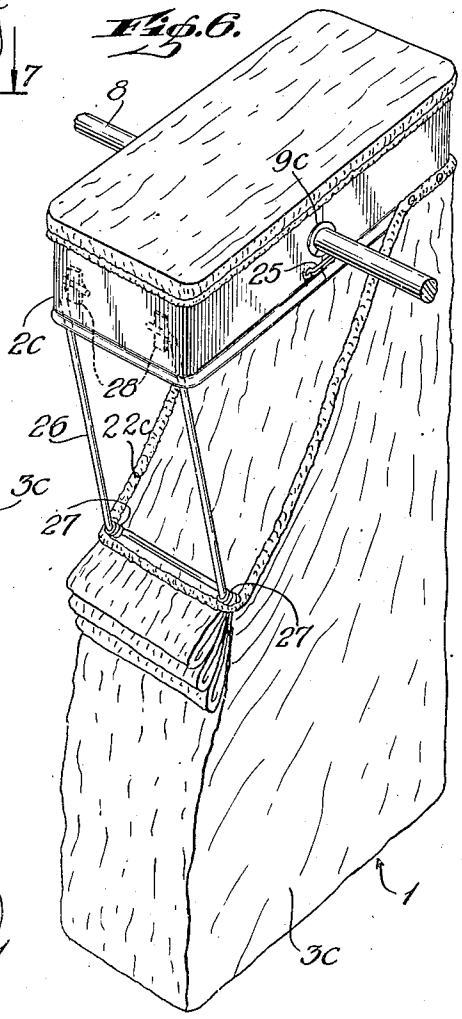
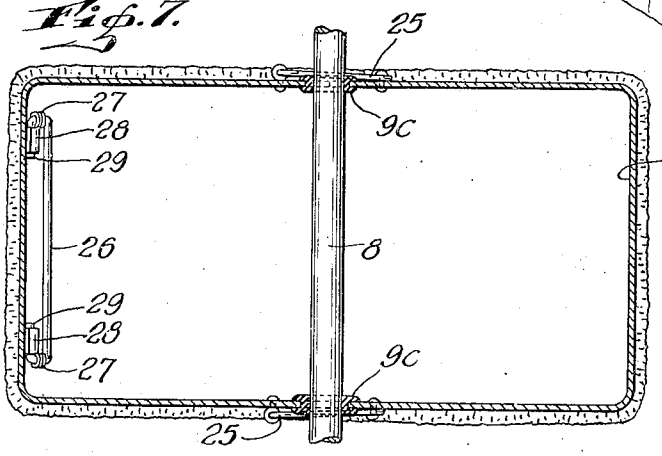


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,372,439

GARMENT BAG

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Application October 6, 1942, Serial No. 460,963

11 Claims. (Cl. 206—7)

This invention relates to garment bags and demothing bags. Such bags are used to protect clothing and other fabric articles from moths and other pests. These bags also serve to protect the fabrics from dirt and mildew and other ravages of weather and time.

Among other things, it is an object of this invention to provide an airtight bag that can be charged with a demothing ingredient and will retain same for a considerable period of time. Other objects of the invention are to eliminate expensive zipper openings which catch clothing, to reduce the overall length of the bag so that it can fit in low closets, to eliminate the necessity for a clothes rod as an integral part of the bag, to permit the bag to be placed over clothes already hanging in a closet, thereby utilizing the closet pole for supporting both bag and clothing and eliminating the necessity for lifting heavy garments from the clothes pole in order to place them inside of the bag, and to make the clothes visible through the bag so that it is unnecessary to open the bag in order to ascertain its contents.

The manner of achieving these and other objects will appear as the description of one form of the invention proceeds hereinafter, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a garment bag made according to the invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the bag shown in Fig. 1 and illustrating one slight modification thereof; Fig. 3 is a vertical section similar to that of Fig. 2, showing a modified form of construction for the upper part of the bag and Fig. 4 is a vertical section of the bag shown in Fig. 3, taken on a plane at right angles to the section plane of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a side elevation partly broken away of a garment bag made according to the invention showing another modified construction for the upper part thereof. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the bag shown in Fig. 5, illustrating the bag when it is open to provide access to the interior thereof and Fig. 7 is a section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 5.

In Fig. 1 there is shown a garment bag designated generally by the reference character 1. The bag comprises a top portion 2*a* formed of a metal stamping or similar light rigid material. A flexible bag portion 3*a* is supported from the top portion 2*a* and is attached thereto by means of rivets 4*a* around half of the periphery of the mouth of the bag. The upper edge of the bag is provided with a hem 22*a* through which runs an elastic band 5. The elastic serves to maintain the non-riveted portion of the bag mouth firmly in position over the top of the lip 6 formed on the under side of the top portion 2*a*. The bottom edge of the top portion 2*a* is in the shape of an ellipse or oval or other continuously convex shape. Because of this, the elastic 5 creates a component of force directed inwardly between the mouth of the bag portion 3*a* and the bottom edge of the top portion 2*a*, thus creating a tight seal.

The top portion 2*a* is provided with apertures 7 to admit a closet rod 8. As shown in Fig. 1, there is a channel 10 leading from the aperture 7 to the bottom edge of the top member, thereby providing means for slipping the top portion 2*a* over the rod 8 so that the rod 8 passes through the apertures 7 and through the interior of the bag. After the top portion 2*a* has been placed over the closet rod 8, a slide 11 is pushed into place to close the channel 10. The slide 11 may be a rubber block so that it tightly engages the opposite sides of the channel. A piece, 9*a*, of sponge rubber or other suitable material is disposed within the aperture 7. In its normal position the piece 9*a* nearly fills the aperture 7 but when the garment bag is in place over the rod 8, the latter compresses the sponge rubber against the sides of the aperture 7 thereby forming a tight seal between the top portion 2*a* and the rod 8. After the top 2*a* has been thus secured over the closet pole, the unriveted mouth portion of the flexible bag 3*a* is slipped over the edge of the bead 6. This forms a substantially fluid tight enclosure through the interior of which passes the rod 8. In Fig. 2 there is shown a modified form of seal between the closet pole and the top of the bag. A piece of sponge rubber 12 fills both the aperture 7 and the channel 10. After the top has been slipped over the pole 8, the sponge rubber in the channel returns to its original position in which it completely closes the channel. That portion of the sponge rubber lying within the aperture 7 remains compressed between the pole 8 and the top portion 2*a*.

To provide access to the interior of the garment bag after it has been assembled in place, as described above, there is an opening 13 in the side of the bag. Around the mouth of the opening 13 there is a framework 14 having an outwardly turned flange 15. As shown in Fig. 2, the frame 14 is riveted around the mouth of the opening 13 but any other means of attachment may be used, such as stitching or gluing. A cover member 16 is adapted to be snapped in place over the flange 15 thereby forming a tight closure.

The cover 16 may be formed in a variety of ways. For example, the cover may be made of transparent oiled silk, thereby providing a view of the interior of the bag, and there may be a hem around the edge of the cover containing an elastic member similar to the elastic band previously described for connecting the bag portion 3a to the top portion 2a. Alternatively the cover 16 may be made of some resilient transparent plastic having an inwardly turned flange which could be snapped over the flange 15 of the frame 14.

The structure shown in Figures 1 and 2 may be modified by eliminating the opening 13 and the rivets 4a. Then, when it is desired to remove garments from the bag, the whole bottom portion 3a may be slipped off over the lip 6 and brought down far enough to expose the garments. Also, if desired, the extent of the riveted portion 4a could be merely reduced instead of completely eliminated so that although the bag could be dropped far enough to expose the garments, it would not fall completely off. Another change which would be particularly useful in the last described modifications would be to form the top member 2a of a transparent plastic instead of metal, in order to provide a view of the interior of the bag.

In Figures 3 and 4 there is shown a modified form of top construction particularly adapted for use in those cases in which the closet pole already installed on the premises is too near the roof of the closet to permit a cover member being passed between the closet pole and the roof. In this construction a rod 20 passing through rubber gaskets 12b in the top portion 2b of the bag is furnished as an integral part of the bag. Hangers 21 attached at either end of the rod 20 are provided for supporting the bag on the closet pole or other suitable supports. In this construction the flexible bag portion 3b is permanently attached to the top portion 2b as by means of rivets 4b. The top portion 2b has an open top around the periphery of which there is an outwardly turned flange 18. A cover member 19b similar to the cover 16 engages the flange 18 to form a tight closure. The top portion 2b is convexly curved around its entire periphery just as are the top portion 2a and the frame 14 shown in Figures 1 and 2. This is to provide the necessary inward component of force desirable for making a tight seal. The cover member 19b may be transparent in order to provide a view of the interior of the bag. This cover member provides a mode of withdrawing clothing from the interior of the bag but it is preferable in most cases to provide another means of access to the interior of the bag such as a side opening as is shown at 13 in Figures 1 and 2. If a side opening is used, the entire top portion could be made in one piece as in Fig. 1.

In Figures 5 through 7 there is illustrated another modified top construction for the garment bag. As in the preceding figures, the bag is designated generally by the reference character 1. There is a flexible bottom portion 3c which is supported from a rigid top portion 2c. The flexible portion is fastened to the rigid portion at 4c and there is an elastic 5c running through a hem 22c for holding the rest of the flexible bag portion in place, just as in the previous embodiments. The top portion 2c, instead of being made in one piece, is made of two portions hinged together at 24. This enables the top portion 2c to be placed around the closet pole 8 without the necessity of there being a channel between the apertures 7c and bottom edge of the portion 2c. After the top portion has been placed over the top of the rod 8, the hinged sections are latched together by any suitable means such as the hook 25. There is a rubber gasket 9c which is split so as to permit it to be slipped over the clothes pole. As shown best in Fig. 7, there is an annular groove around the outer periphery of the gasket 9c into which fit the two sections of the top portion 2c when the latter is in place. This gasket 9c may be made of sponge rubber to adapt it to fit different sizes of clothes poles. The hinged top portion 2c has an annular bead at the upper side over which is snapped a cover 19c in a similar manner to that in which covers 16 and 19b are held in place. The cover 19c may be transparent. At one end of the top 2c there are bearings 28 in which there are pivoted the ends 29 of a swing 26. The swing 26 carries a number of rings 27 which are sewed to the interior of the adjacent portion of the flexible part 3c of the garment bag. The purpose of this swing is to keep the garment bag from falling down too far where it might become entangled with the clothes when it is separated from its top portion 2c. It also keeps the flexible sides properly lined up thereby facilitating withdrawal and entrance of garments. In order to place the top portion 2c over a clothes pole, it is necessary that one side or the other of the flexible portion 3c be completely separable from the top portion. To this end the swing 26 may be made of a resilient material so that the pivots 29 can be spread apart and withdrawn from the bearings 28. Alternatively, the swing 26 may be made of a relatively stiff material and the fastenings 4c may be of the snap button type instead of rivets as in the previous figures.

In the form of the invention shown in Figures 5 through 7, the garment bag is of rectangular cross section rather than oval, as is the form shown in Fig. 1. Such a shape is in some instances more desirable than the rounded form. However, if nearly perfect airtightness is considered to be an important factor, the bag shown in Figures 5 through 7 may also be made with a rounded cross section in order to provide a tighter seal between the flexible bag and the rigid top 2c, and between the top 2c and the cover 19c. In such case, it would also be desirable to provide a gasket or other sealing means along the junction of the two sections of the hinged top portion 2c.

Throughout the description of the invention it has been assumed that the flexible portion 3 of the bag is made of some non-transparent material because flexible airtight materials which are not acted upon by chemical vapors used for mothproofing are usually non-transparent. However, if desired, the whole flexible portion 3c may be made of some transparent material such as a plastic.

While one particular embodiment of the invention has been described, it is obvious that many modifications therein might be made without departing from the scope of the invention. For example, the top rigid portions 2 could be made of a framework of wires or channel members and covered over with a transparent flexible material, other materials than sponge rubber could be used for the gaskets 9, and a simple tie rope might be substituted for the elastics 5. It is intended to protect by these Letters Patent all forms of the invention falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A bag having side and bottom walls, a cover having side and top walls, means through which the cover can be slipped over the top of a horizontal rod to be supported thereon comprising separable joints in the side walls of the cover and apertures in the side walls, said joints extending from the bottom edge of the cover side walls to said apertures, and means for joining the top of the side walls of the bag to the bottom of the side walls of the cover.

2. A bag comprising a top member and a bottom portion, means to support said portion from said member, and means to support said member on a horizontal rod passing through and inside of and spaced from the top of said bag, said member being sufficiently rigid to maintain its shape when carrying the weight of said portion, said member and said portion being readily and manually separable at least part way across their juncture, said member having means through which said rod can be passed between said member and said portion via said separable juncture and into apertures in said member to support said member.

3. A bag having a top and a bottom that are at least in part readily and manually separable, said top having rigid side walls through which there are openings, and resilient means in said openings for making a tight seal with a rod passing therethrough, said resilient means having the characteristic of sponge rubber that causes it to make a tight seal regardless of the size of the rod passed through the openings.

4. A bag comprising a body portion having an opening at its upper end and a cover member having top and side walls, means for supporting said portion from said member, and means for placing said member over a rod in such a manner that the rod passes through the interior of the bag and supports it from the rod comprising a hinge in said top wall and separable joints in said side walls.

5. A bag comprising a rigid top portion and a flexible body, means to support the body from the top, said top and body being at least in part readily manually separable, openings in the sides of said top, and means providing entrance to said openings from the underside of said top portion between said top and body where they are separable for enabling said top to be positioned over a rod with the rod passing from the outside of the bag through one of the openings and for enabling said top to be thus positioned even though prior to such positioning the ends of the rod be connected to members too large to allow the rod to be passed through said openings.

6. A bag comprising a rigid top and a body portion, openings in the side walls of said top, channels in the side walls of said top leading from said openings to the bottom edges of said side walls, sliding panels that fit in said channels, and means for supporting said body portion from said top, said means being readily manually separable from one side of the bag to at least as far as said channels.

7. A bag having a top portion and a body, said top portion comprising rigid side walls hinged in the middle at their upper edge and a flexible elastic cover therefor, said side walls having apertures therein which are located on the dividing line where said walls are hinged, and means for supporting said body from said top portion.

8. A bag having a rigid top portion and a flexible bottom portion, means to support the top portion on a rod, means to support said bottom portion from said top portion comprising separable fastening means around a part of the periphery of the opening in the bottom portion and cooperating fastening means around a part of the periphery of the opening in the top portion, said fastening means being operative even though only a part of the bottom portion is in engagement with the top portion, and elastic means around the remaining part of the opening in the top portion; and means to support said remaining part spaced away from said top portion when said elastic means is in inoperative position.

9. A bag comprising a rigid top portion and a body, means to support the top portion over a rod with the rod passing therethrough, said body having a flexible mouth which is in part permanently attached to the sides of said top portion and in part separably secured thereto, an opening in said body on the side beneath that part of said mouth which is permanently attached to the top portion, and a cover for said opening.

10. A bag comprising a rigid top portion and a body having a flexible mouth, apertures in the sides of said top portion, means providing entrance to said apertures from the bottom edges of said side walls, and means for attaching said mouth to said bottom edges of said side walls, said top portion and said body being readily manually separable at all points.

11. A bag comprising a flexible body portion, a top rigid frame portion, a rod passing through said frame portion, said frame portion engaging the rod to be supported thereby, a cover for said frame portion, said cover being made of flexible transparent material having sufficient elasticity to tightly engage said frame when placed thereover, means to support said body portion on said frame portion, and means providing access to the interior of said bag without the removal of said cover.

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