This invention relates to luggage and particularly to a construction for suitcases, satchels, traveling bags, sample cases and the like.

Pieces of this type are usually constructed with walls that meet each other in angular relation to form sharply defined corners. In the ordinary handling of these pieces, it is these corner parts that are subjected to the greater amount of impact and abrasion and it is these corner parts, as a result, which first show wear or break down to the extent that the piece becomes unfit for further use.

It is an object of the invention to produce a container of the type described embodying a new and improved corner construction to minimize the effect of impact and abrasion to which the container is exposed as an incidence to normal handling.

Another object is to provide a new and improved corner construction in a luggage case to improve the strength and life of the case and it is a related object to improve the appearance, wear and durability of the case.

These and other objects and advantages of this invention will hereinafter appear and for purposes of illustration but not of limitation, an embodiment is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an assembled luggage case embodying features of the invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective fragmentary view of the case shown in Figure 1 with parts broken away to show the arrangement of parts in a corner assembly;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3-3 of Figure 1, and

Figure 4 is a sectional view of the cushioning strip unit used in the corner construction of the illustrated luggage case.

As shown in the drawing, my invention is embodied in the construction of a suit case formed of two similarly dimensioned rectangular sections A and B. Each section is defined by a sidewall 18, end walls 11 and 12, top wall 13 and bottom wall. Sections A and B are hingedly connected along their meeting edges of their respective bottom walls and locking means 15 are provided in their top walls to hold the parts together when in their closed relation.

The walls of a luggage case of this type are usually formed of relatively rigid material capable of resisting impact while retaining its desired shape, such as from wood, metal, plastic laminates and the like. Their outer and inner faces are covered with a facing material 16 and 17 respectively which may be a textile fabric, leather, sheet metal, sheet plastic or the like with or without decorated design. The walls generally meet each other in angular relation and form sharply defined corners, such as the corners formed by the perpendicularly arranged walls 10 and 11 meeting along the edges cut at 45° angles, as shown in Figure 3.

To protect the corner portions from the effects of wear, impact, and abrasion, there is provided a cushioning strip 18 having a longitudinal groove 19 therein corresponding to the contour of the corner such that the cushioning strip fits onto the corner and embraces the edge portions adjacent thereto when in the assembled relation. The cushioning strip 18 should be formed of material incapable of cold flow, such as metal, wood, plastics and the like, and best use is made of relatively tough, resilient plastic materials such as cellulose acetate, cellulose butyrate, plasticized or unplasticized synthetics including polyvinyl chloride, vinyl chloride, vinyl acetate copolymer, rubber hydrochloride, isoprene (neoprene), butadiene-styrene copolymer (Buna S) or butadiene-acrylonitile copolymer (Buna N), may also be used. These and related materials are capable of substantially resisting permanent deformation. They are tough and sufficiently resilient to enable conformance to the crosswise and longitudinal contour of the corner sections.

To fix the cushioning strip 18 in the assembled relation, a securing flange 20 is formed to extend integrally from the strip with the inner face of the flange appearing as an extension from one of the faces defining the groove 19. The flange thus lies closely adjacent to the corresponding wall of the luggage case and may be fixed thereto.

In the embodiment shown in the drawings, the cushioning strip 18 is in the form of an elongated cylindrical member having a section or groove formed therein, defined by substantially perpendicularly arranged faces 21 and 22 dimensioned to be at least equal to the radius of the cylindrical section but less than its diameter. The flange 20 is in the form of an outward taping wedge having its inner face 23 in parallel relation and flush with face 22 of the groove.

The flanged cushioning strip is covered with a facing strip 25 dimensioned to have free edge portions extending beyond the flanged cushioning strip. These edge portions and the flanged
member are sewn in the usual manner to the respective walls of the luggage case, as at 24, to secure the parts in their assembled relation. The facing strip is usually formed of relatively tough materials capable of resisting wear and abrasion, such as leather, plastic sheet, etc. As a binding, it adds to the attractiveness of the luggage case.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that corner construction of the type described will provide a raised bead all around each corner section. The raised bead portion accepts the forces and impacts to which the luggage case is normally subjected in advance of the less resisting intermediate wall portions. The bead on the underside of the case functions to space the adjacent wall from the surface on which the luggage case is rested to minimize contact thereof with such surfaces. By this new and improved construction the appearance of the luggage case is improved while at the same time the life and the strength of the corner construction is enhanced. The effect of wear abrasion and impact to which the case is normally subjected is greatly minimized.

It will be understood that numerous changes may be made in the details, construction, arrangement and materials without departing from the spirit of the invention especially as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:
1. In a luggage case defined by walls meeting each other substantially in perpendicular relation to provide sharply defined corners, a cushioning strip of tough resilient material incapable of cold flow in the form of a curvilinear rod having a longitudinal groove therein defined by substantial perpendicularly arranged walls having a depth greater than one-half the corresponding thickness of the rod whereby the cushioning strip embraces the corner portion when in the assembled relation, a securing flange integral with the strip and extending therefrom as a continuation

with a face defining the groove and fixed to the adjacent wall of the luggage for securing the cushioning strip in the assembled relation, and a facing strip covering the cushioning strip and flange and fixed along its edges to the adjacent walls of the luggage.

2. In a luggage case defined by walls meeting each other in substantially perpendicular relation to provide sharply defined corners, a cushioning strip of tough resilient material incapable of cold flow and in the form of a cylindrical rod having a longitudinal groove therein defined by substantially perpendicularly arranged walls dimensioned to be greater than the radius, whereby the cushioning strip embraces the corner portions when in the assembled relation, a securing flange integral with the strip and extending therefrom as a continuation of one face of the groove, a facing strip dimensioned to cover the flanged cushioning strip and have free edge portions extending beyond the flanged cushioning strip, and means securing the free edge portions of the facing strip and the securing flange to the adjacent walls of the luggage in the assembled relation.

SAMUEL D. PLOTKIN.

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