Feb. 9, 1932. J. RITTER, JR 1,844,336

WARDROBE CASE

Filed April 15, 1929

Fig. 1

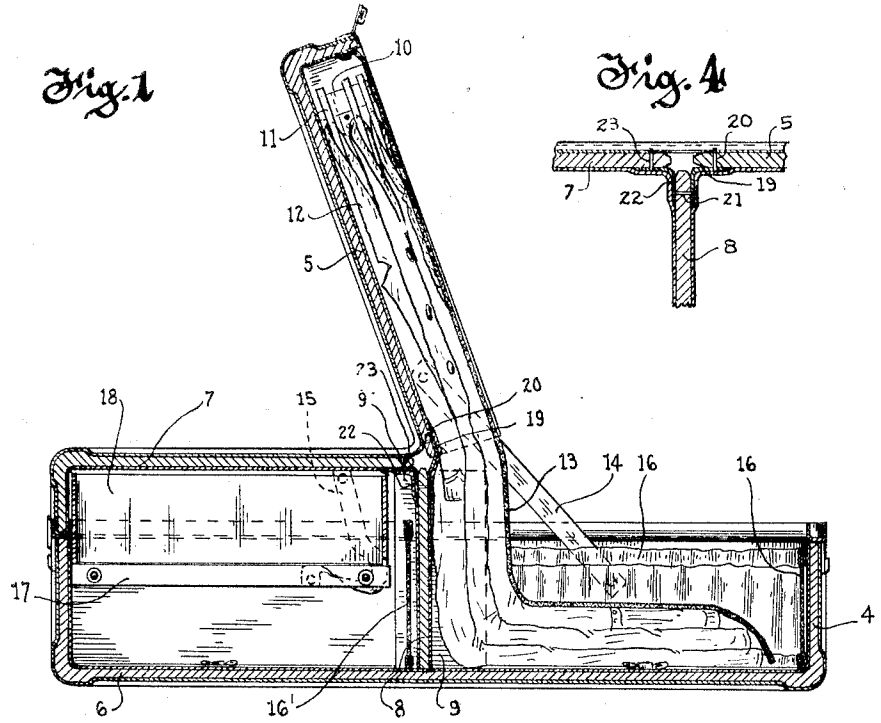


Fig. 4

Fig. 2

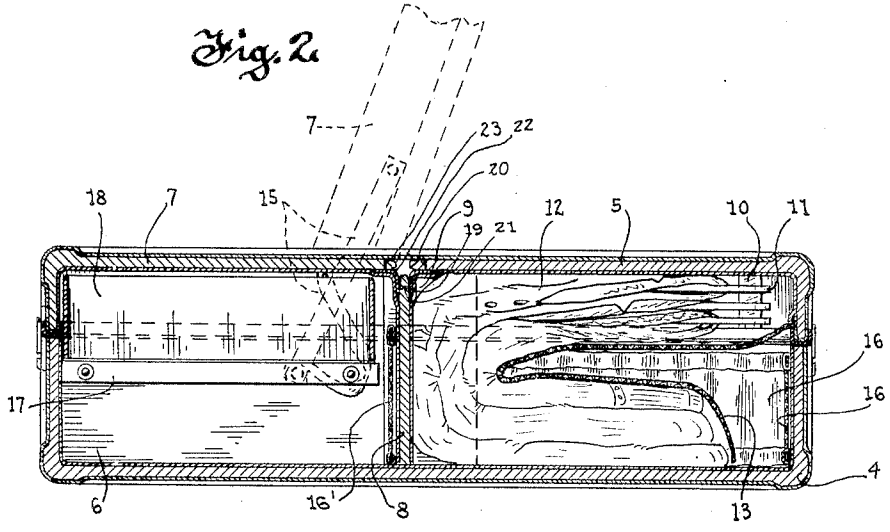
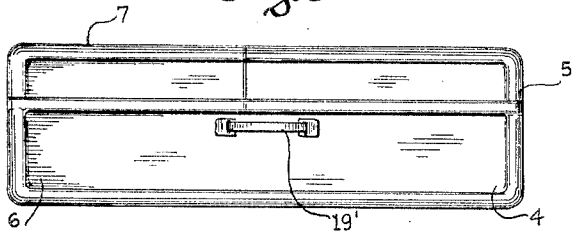


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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WARDROBE CASE

Application filed April 15, 1929. Serial No. 355,139.

My invention has relation to improvements in wardrobe cases.

Wardrobe cases have been constructed in which the wardrobe section is not of sufficient length to support the apparel from the usual hangers, without the necessity of folding the apparel upwardly, which necessarily results in causing the apparel or garments to be badly creased and wrinkled.

It is the primary object of my invention to provide a construction wherein the case consists of two separate and distinct sections, one constituting the compartment section, and the other the wardrobe section, both sections comprising main body portions and hinged cover portions, the hinged connections being disposed at a medial point of the case so as to permit of the covers opening upwardly and inwardly toward each other, the cover of the wardrobe section being equipped within its unhinged end with garment supporting devices, to permit of the garments occupying the space within the said cover, and with the further provision for such garments as are greater in length than the cover, being extended into and positioned within the body portion of the wardrobe section, without the necessity of folding such lengthy garments upwardly. By this provision the objectionable wrinkling and creasing of lengthy garments is avoided, and at the same time the wardrobe section of the case is not of undue length.

With the above primary object, and other incidental objects, in view, the invention consists of the devices and parts, or the equivalents thereof, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Fig. 1 is a section through the entire case, showing the cover of the wardrobe section raised, and the garments suspended from hangers in said cover extended downwardly into and along the bottom of the body of the wardrobe section, and also showing the curtain in position to protect the garments;

Fig. 2 is a similar section to that disclosed by Fig. 1, but showing the cover of the wardrobe section closed, thus illustrating the position that the garments assume when the case is ready to be taken on a trip, and further showing, by dotted lines, a fragment of the cover of the compartment section raised to open position;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the case, with both covers closed, and

Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view of a fragment of the intermediate partition and of the two covers, in order to clearly show the hinge connections for the covers.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 4 indicates the main body portion of the wardrobe section of the case, which is provided with a hinged cover 5, and the numeral 6 indicates the main body portion of the compartment section of the case, which is likewise provided with a hinged cover 7. The two sections of the case are separated from each other by means of an inner transversely extending partition 8. This partition, as will be seen from the drawing, extends a distance beyond the edges of the walls of the two sections. The sides of the ends of the body of the wardrobe section, next to the partition 8, may, if desired, be provided with extensions 9 secured to the opposite inner sides of the body of the wardrobe section. These extensions are in the form of boards, and preferably extend down to the bottom of the body of the wardrobe section. As they are secured to the inner faces of the sides of the body of the wardrobe section, they are necessarily inset, and this permits the side flanges of the cover 5 to position themselves on the outside of these extensions.

The opposite sides of the hinged top 5 have garment hanger rails 10 (only one being shown) mounted thereon within the unhinged end of said cover 5, for receiving garment hangers 11 which are slidable on said rails.

The garments, indicated by the numeral 12, are suspended from the hangers, and such of the garments as are longer than the length of the hinged top 5 extend along the length of the cover 5 and thence between the extensions 9 and adjacent to the transverse partition 8, the garments being finally turned so as to be caused to extend along the bottom of the body of the wardrobe section. A cur-

tain 13 is connected at one extremity within the unhinged end of the cover 5, and is extended downwardly over the suspended garments, the length of the curtain being sufficient to extend throughout the entire length of the garments, both within the cover and within the body of the wardrobe section.

Fig. 2 of the drawings shows the cover of the wardrobe section closed so as to clearly illustrate the position which the garments assume when the cover 5 is closed and the case is ready for transportation.

On opposite sides of the body portion of the wardrobe section are secured the lower ends of flexible tapes or straps 14 (only one being shown). The upper ends of these tapes are secured to the opposite side flanges of the cover 5. These tapes serve the function of limiting the extent to which the cover may be opened.

Similar flexible tapes or straps 15 are employed for the compartment section (one only being shown). The lower ends of these tapes are likewise secured to opposite sides of the compartment section, and the upper ends thereof to the depending flanges of the cover 7, and of course perform the same function as that described with reference to the tapes 14, i. e., they limit the extent of the opening of the cover 7. When the covers are turned downwardly these flexible tapes are no longer in stretched condition, as illustrated by the dotted line contour of the tape within the compartment section (see Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings).

Within the wardrobe section, and along the sides thereof are shown pockets 16, for the accommodation of laundry, and small articles, such as handkerchiefs, etc. A similar pocket 16′ is shown within the body 6 of the compartment section.

Also within and along opposite sides of the compartment section are cleats or supporting strips 17 (one only being shown) which support a removable tray 18.

In the use of the case, when the cover 17 of the compartment section is raised, the tray can be removed so as to afford an opportunity to pack the space of the body of the compartment section which lies beneath the tray 18, when said tray is in position. After this packing, the tray can be reinserted and packed. The cover is then turned down to closing position, and locked by the usual locking means.

The cover 5 of the wardrobe section can next be raised so as to provide for adjusting the garments to the hangers. The garments which are suspended and which are longer than the length of the cover 5 will be accommodated in the manner hereinbefore fully explained, and as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the said garments, as heretofore stated, being protected by the cover or curtain 13.

The next step is to close the cover 5, and the garments and protecting curtain will then occupy the position clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, that is to say, a certain portion of the length of the garments will extend along the cover 5, and the lengthy garments will project into the space between the extension guides 9 and are then bent around, and extend along the bottom of the body of the wardrobe section.

The hinged cover 5 is now closed and locked and the packed case is ready to be carried on a journey. Attention might be called to the fact that when the cover 5 is closed the depending flanges thereof fit on the outside of the extension guides 9, and the lower edges of said flanges rest upon the edges of the body portion of the wardrobe section.

It will be seen from the foregoing description that I provide a construction wherein the rails and hangers are disposed in the hinged cover of the body of the wardrobe section, and that a substantial portion of the length of the garments are within the hinged cover, and the remaining portions of lengthy garments are within the body portion of the wardrobe section, with only the necessity of one fold to the long garments, and without the necessity of folding the garments upwardly, which of course increases very materially the danger of wrinkling and creasing.

It will be further seen that the construction is such that a case is provided in which two separate and distinct compartments are formed, each equipped with its own individual or separate hinged cover, one of the compartments, in conjunction with its cover, forming the wardrobe section, capable of accommodating suspended garments, without the necessity of undue folding and creasing of the garments, all of these advantageous features being provided for without the necessity of undue extension of the length of the case.

For convenience in carrying the case, one side thereof is provided with the usual handle 19′.

In Fig. 4 of the drawings, I show in detail the hinge connections between the covers and the partition 8. The hinge connection for the cover 5 cosists of a short strip 19 attached at one end to the under side of said cover by stitches 20, and at its opposite end is attached by stitches 21 to the partition 8.

The hinge for the cover 7 likewise consists of a short strip 22 connected at one end to the under side of the cover 7 by stitches 23, and at its other end to the partition 8 by the stitches 21.

The linings of the wardrobe section and the compartment section cover these hinge strips, as clearly shown.

What I claim is:

1. A wardrobe case, comprising a ward-

robe body portion and a compartment body portion separated from each other by a medially positioned transversely extending partition, the said partition extending upwardly beyond the walls of the wardrobe body portion and the compartment body portion a distance of substantially one-half the height of said wall, independent hinged covers for the two body portions, the hinges connecting said covers to the portion of the partition which projects beyond the walls of the body portions, and garment supporting devices mounted within the unhinged end of the cover for the wardrobe section for holding garments which occupy space within the wardrobe body portion and the cover therefor.

2. A wardrobe case, comprising a wardrobe body portion and a compartment body portion separated from each other by a medially positioned transversely extending partition, the said partition projecting upwardly a greater distance than the walls of the wardrobe body portion and the compartment body portion, extensions extending beyond opposite sides of the body portion of the wardrobe section and adjacent to and at an angle from the partition, separate or independent hinged covers for the two body portions, the hinges connecting said covers to the projecting portion of the transverse partition, the side flanges of the cover for the wardrobe section, when said cover is in a closed position, being positioned on the outside of the side extensions and resting on the edges of the walls of the wardrobe section, and garment supporting devices removably mounted within the unhinged end of the cover for the wardrobe section for suspending garments which occupy space within the wardrobe body portion and the cover therefor.

3. A wardrobe case, comprising a body member, a partition therewithin dividing said body member into a compartment section and a wardrobe section, and independent cover sections for the compartment section and the wardrobe section respectively, and hingedly connected to portions of the case intermediate its ends, the cover section for the wardrobe section when closed with respect to the latter forming therewith a continuous compartment for the accommodation of elongated garments disposed in a U-formation.

4. A wardrobe case, comprising a body member, a partition therewithin dividing said body member into a compartment section and a wardrobe section, independent cover sections for the compartment section and the wardrobe section respectively, said cover sections being of a substantial depth and being hingedly connected to portions of the case intermediate its ends, and garment supporting members mounted within the unhinged end portions of the wardrobe section cover section which, when said cover section is open permit the support of garments which may extend the length of the cover and into the wardrobe section along the bottom thereof, said cover section when closed with respect to the wardrobe section forming therewith a continuous compartment for accommodation of garments disposed in a U-formation within the space enclosed by said wardrobe section and its cover section.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

JULIUS RITTER, JR.