

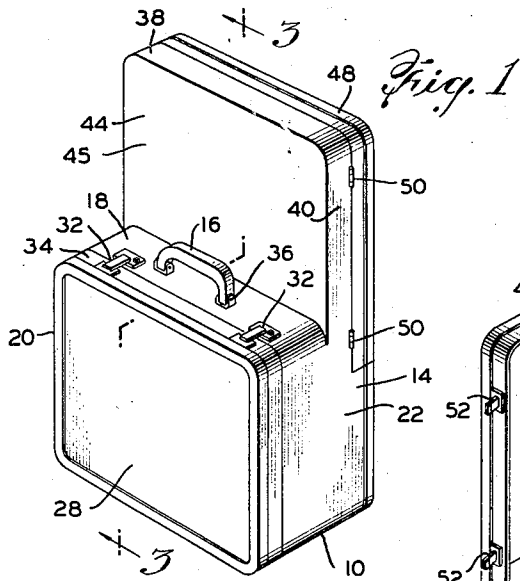
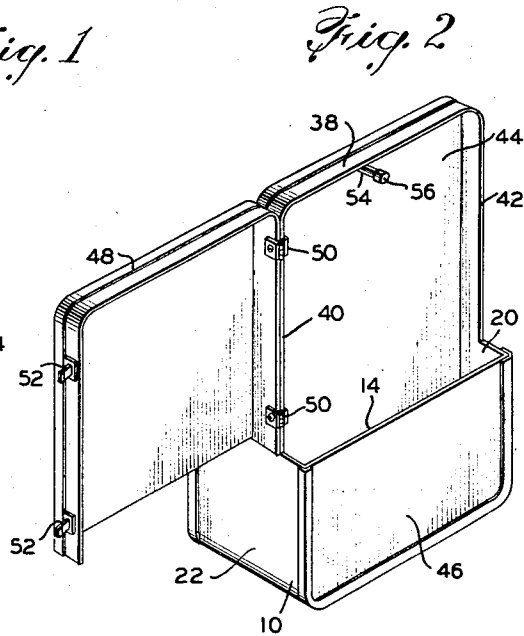
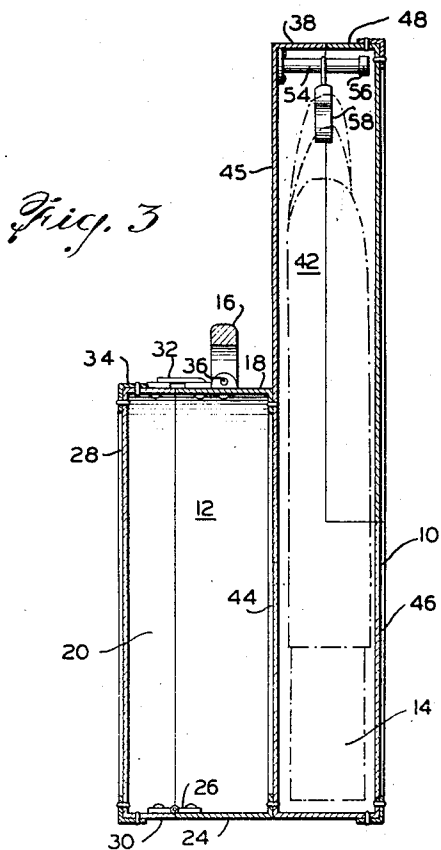
May 8, 1951

S. G. KRAMER
SUITCASE HAVING INDIVIDUALLY ACCESSIBLE
SECTIONS OF DIFFERENT HEIGHT AND DEPTH

2,552,438

Filed March 23, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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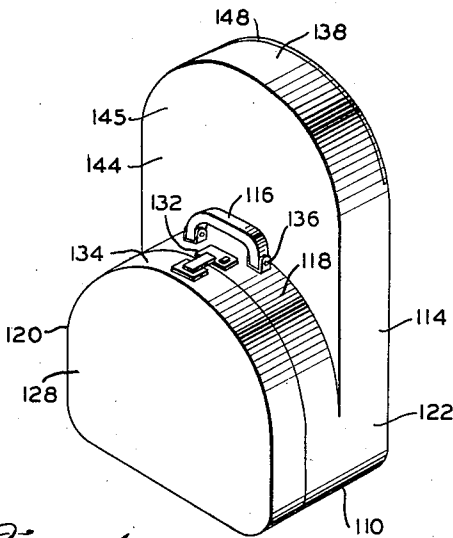
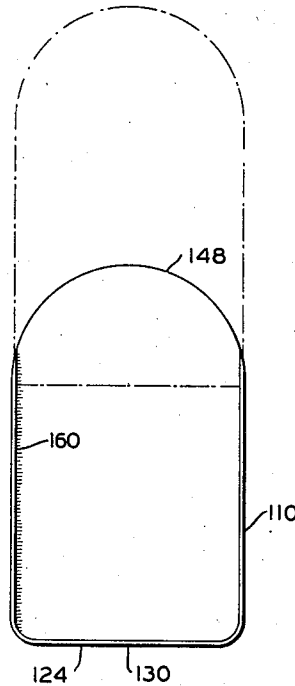
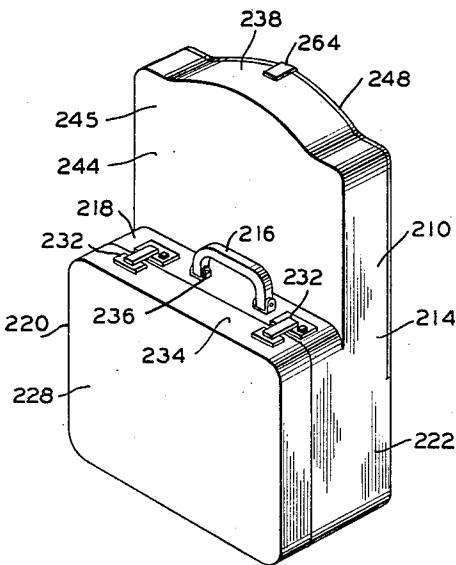
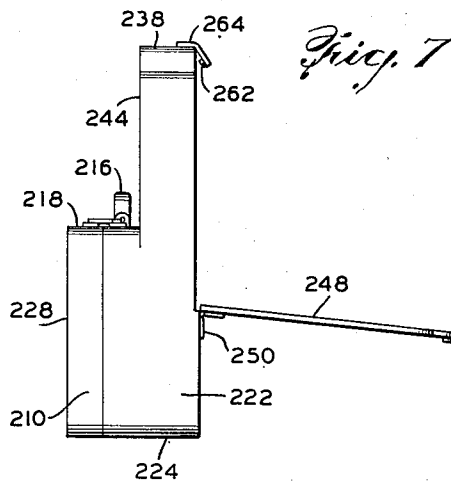


Fig. 5



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SUITCASE HAVING INDIVIDUALLY ACCESSIBLE SECTIONS OF DIFFERENT HEIGHT AND DEPTH

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1 Claim. (Cl. 190—41)

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This invention relates generally to the luggage field and more particularly to improved suitcase construction.

In the past it has been considered desirable to have a suitcase in which, instead of having the various garment parts folded, said parts were suspended in such a manner as to reduce crushing and wrinkling thereof. The various attempts at a solution of this problem, however, have resulted for the most part in devices in which the garment parts were subjected to considerable folding or in which the case took on the characteristics of a large trunk, for example of the wardrobe type, not suitable for carrying by hand.

It is among the principal objects of the present invention to provide suitcase structure in which a man's or woman's suit, with the exception of the trousers, may be contained therein without undesirable bunching, wrinkling, or folding. In accordance with the present invention, the suit or similar garment may be transported with substantially the same accommodation as it would be if hung in a closet in the home, that is to say the garment may be carried by an ordinary garment hanger.

Another object herein lies in the provision of suitcase structure having in combination a first chamber or compartment within which may be carried various similar articles used in travel and the like and a second chamber or compartment of sufficient size and proper shape to contain a suit or suits or similar articles of clothing.

Another object herein lies in luggage structure in which a plurality of non-communicating chambers are arranged so that suspended garments or garment elements may be maintained in a substantially vertical position while the luggage is at rest upon a horizontal surface or while the luggage is being manually carried.

Another object herein lies in the provision of suitcase structure having a handle, in which the handle may be carried by the user's hand while walking, in such manner that the bottom surface of the suitcase may clear the ground and the uppermost portions of the suitcase may lie between the user's upper arm and trunk, fitting below the shoulder joint of the user.

A further object herein is the provision of suitcase structure which may be relatively light in weight and may offer a maximum of convenience and usefulness and yet which may be low in cost so as to have a large distribution and use.

These objects and other incidental ends and advantages will more fully appear in the progress

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of this disclosure and will be pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings, similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views of each embodiment.

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a suitcase showing a first embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a rear perspective view of the suitcase shown in Figure 1, with the cover for the suit or second compartment in an opened position.

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view as seen from the plane 3—3 on Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a front view in perspective corresponding generally to Figure 1 but showing a second embodiment of the invention.

Figure 5 is a rear elevational view of the suitcase shown in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a front view in perspective of a suitcase showing a third embodiment of the invention.

Figure 7 is a side elevational view of the suitcase shown in Figure 6 with the cover for the suit or second compartment in an opened position.

Turning now to the first embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 1 to 3 inclusive, the suitcase generally indicated by reference character 10 includes broadly a first compartment 12, a second compartment 14, and a handle element 16.

The suitcase 10 may be constructed in any suitable manner used in the art, as for example using sole leather or a covered wood framework. If desired the case may be fashioned from shaped portions of light metal.

The first compartment 12 is formed in part by upper wall 18, side walls 20 and 22, a bottom wall 24 and main wall 44. A hinge member 26 pivotally connects a first lid element 28 at the bottom portion 30 thereof to the wall 24, thereby permitting the lid element to be swung outwardly to provide access to the compartment 12. Latch members 32 detachably interconnect the upper portion 34 of the lid to the free edge of the upper wall 18. Although the compartment 12 is shown in Figure 3 as internally unfitted, the inner surfaces of walls 18, 20, 22, and 24 if desired may be provided with pockets of suitable shapes to retain smaller articles which would otherwise be unsecured.

The handle 16 may be of any suitable configuration, but is preferably of the type shown having a pivotal mounting 36 which secures it to the upper wall 18.

The second compartment is formed by the side

walls 20 and 22, the bottom wall 24, the top wall 38 as well as the upper portions 40 and 42 of the side walls 20 and 22, and the main vertical wall 44. The wall 44 serves as a joint support for, and as a divider preventing communication between, the first and second compartments, and also provides the exterior surface 45 of the second compartment. The outer vertical wall 46 and the second compartment lid element 48 form the remaining side of the second chamber. I have shown the height of the lid element to be approximately twice that of the outer vertical wall, but if desirable the outer vertical wall may be eliminated, the lid element correspondingly increased in size to completely enclose the outer side of the second compartment. Hinge members 50 interconnect the lid element 48 with the upper side wall portion 40, while latch members 52 retain the lid in the closed position.

Secured near the top of the main vertical wall 44 is a horizontal support 54 the free end of which is provided with an enlargement 56. As may be seen in Figure 3 this enlargement serves to retain a suitable number of hangers only one of which indicated by reference character 58 is shown.

To assure comfort in carrying the present device, it is desirable that the distance between the handle 16 and the top wall 38 be shorter than the arm of the user. This will of course vary with the user's stature. Since the second compartment 14 is substantially disposed between the arm of the user and his body it is of relatively narrow depth, that is between the wall 45 and element 48, but even so, several suits may be inserted into the compartment in an unfolded state.

Turning now to the second embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, for the purpose of avoiding needless repetition, certain of the parts having functions similar to those of the first embodiment are given similar reference characters with the addition of the prefix "1."

As may be seen in Figures 4 and 5 the second embodiment differs from the first embodiment principally in the shape of the top wall 138 and the upper wall 118, and in the construction and action of the lid element 148. These two members are substantially curved. The lid elements 148 is opened to disclose the second compartment 114 by sliding it upwardly in a rabbet 160. The lid is retained in any given position by the action of friction between the sliding surfaces. If desired, however, a suitable latch member (not shown) may be provided.

Turning now to the third embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 6 and 7 parts corresponding to those in the first embodiment have been given similar reference characters with the addition of the prefix "2." As may be seen in Figures 6 and 7 the third embodiment differs from the first embodiment and second embodi-

ment principally in the shape of the top wall 238 and the construction and action of the lid member 248. In this embodiment the lid is pivotally mounted by the hinges 250 for movement about a horizontal axis and is securable in the closed position thereof by a fastening device 264 which may include a leather strap member and interengaging members 262.

It may thus be seen that I have disclosed a novel and highly useful article of luggage. Suitcases made in accordance with my invention may be fabricated of relatively light weight materials since the main wall 44 acts as a stiffening strut as well as a divider between the first and second compartments. The larger articles of outer clothing which are normally hung on hangers may be placed within the second compartment without removing them from the hangers. This makes packing a relatively simple process since by placing the present suitcase adjacent a clothes closet the transfer in either direction takes a relatively short time.

I wish it to be understood that I do not consider the invention to be limited to the exact details of structure set forth in this specification, as obvious modifications will occur to those skilled in the art.

I claim:

In a suitcase: the combination of a first compartment having a bottom wall, side walls, a lid, an upper wall, a back wall extending above said upper wall and a handle member secured to said upper wall; a second compartment having a bottom wall, a top wall, side walls, a front wall formed by the back wall of said first compartment, and a lid; said side walls being coplanar; said bottom walls being coplanar; said upper wall being disposed in a first plane, said top wall being disposed in a second parallel plane; said last two mentioned planes being substantially spaced from each other; said first compartment being vertically disposed and having a predetermined height and depth; and said second compartment being vertically disposed and having a second predetermined height and depth; the depth of said first compartment being greater than the depth of said second compartment.

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