Dec. 2, 1958 M. DAVIS 2,862,586

GARMENT BAG

Filed July 23, 1956 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

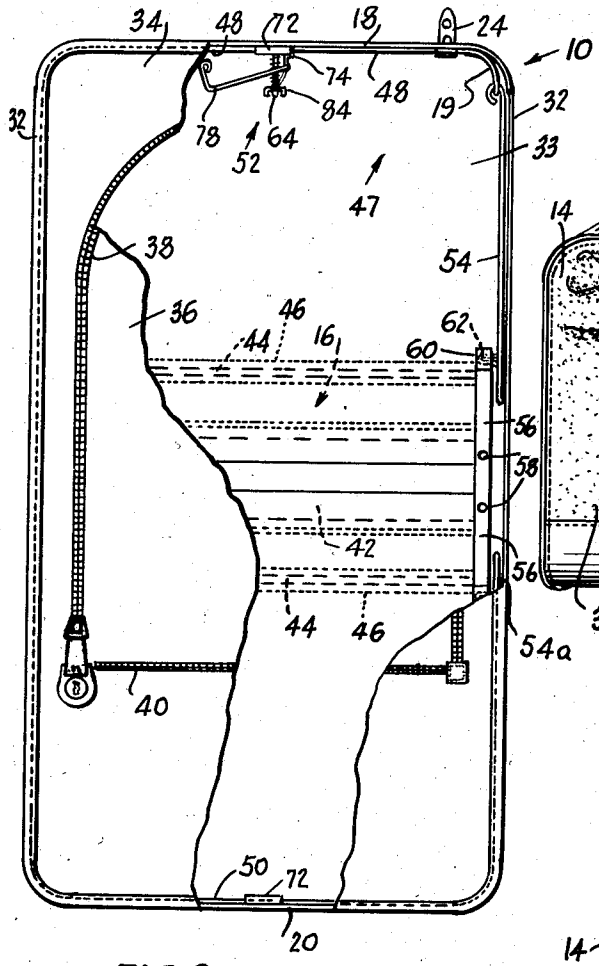
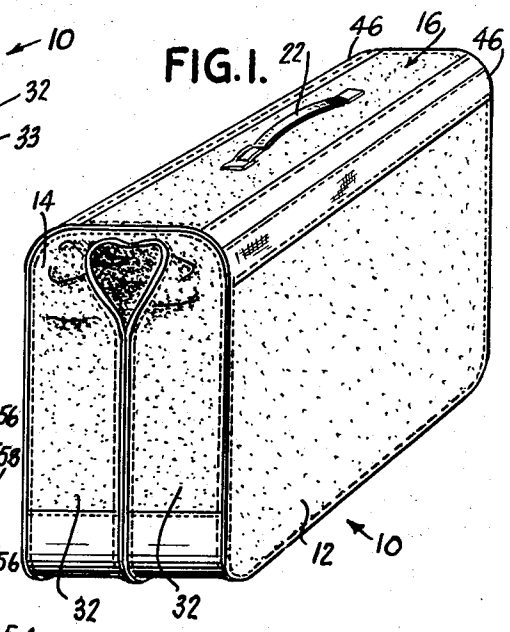


FIG.3.



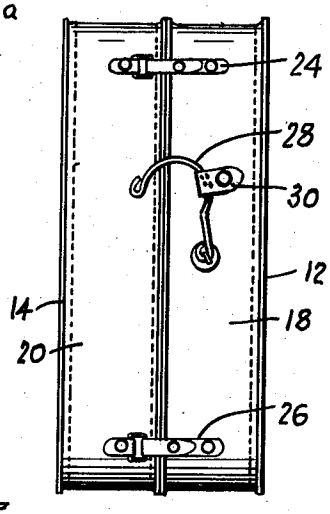


FIG.2.

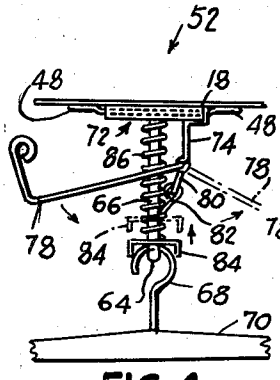


FIG.4.

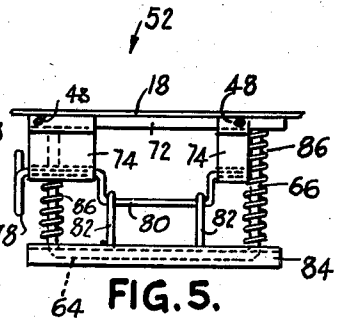


FIG.5.

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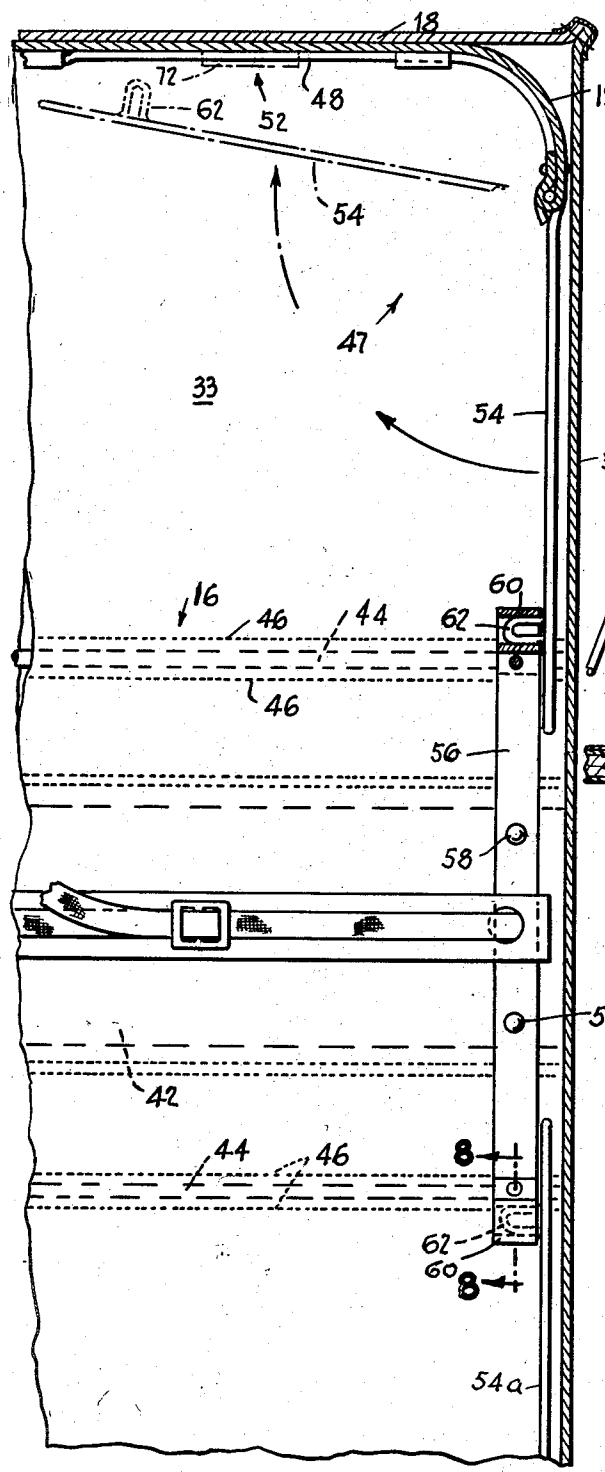


FIG.6.

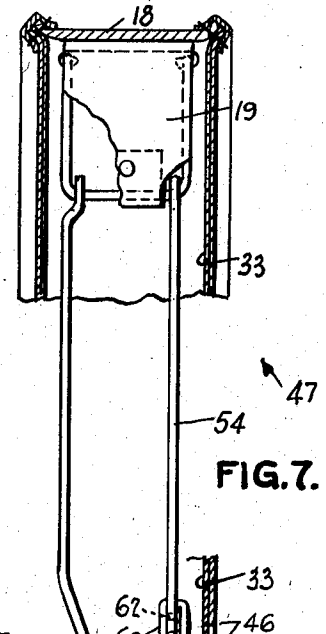


FIG.7.

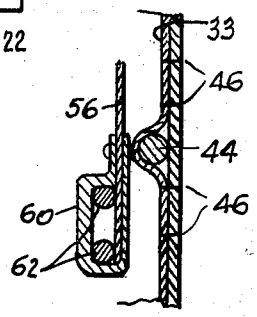


FIG.8.

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GARMENT BAG

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Application July 23, 1956, Serial No. 599,380

6 Claims. (Cl. 190—43)

This invention relates to collapsible garment bags and valises and in particular to the support structure or frames therefor.

In garment bags and valises of the aforesaid kind it is desirable to be able to fold the same into a compact and reasonably small package for storage when not in use. It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a collapsible frame or support for a pliant or flexible garment bag covering.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a frame for a collapsible bag in which the frame is visibly enclosed within the bag so that it may be manipulated between supporting and collapsed conditions without the necessity of any particular mechanical aptitude on the part of the person performing the manipulations.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a collapsible bag having novel garment hanger support structure that is easily operable to effectively support and lock garment hangers thereon in position for travelling.

A further object of the invention is to provide a frame for the collapsible garment bag that is easily collapsed to enable the bag casing to be rolled into a relatively small compact bundle for storage or for convenient carrying.

Other and further objects of my invention reside in the structures and arrangements hereinafter more fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a suitcase in a closed carrying condition.

Fig. 2 is a bottom view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view of the suitcase in its open position with parts thereof partially broken away.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detailed view of the hanger locking mechanism in its locked condition.

Fig. 5 is a side view of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged view of a portion of the reinforcing frame.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary side view, partly in section, of a portion of the structure shown in Fig. 6, as it would appear in closed condition.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged sectional view taken along lines 8—8 of Fig. 6.

Referring now to the drawings wherein the collapsible garment bag is generally identified by the numeral **10**. Bag **10** comprises two coextensive clothes carrying portions **12** and **14**, each of which is foldable one relatively to the other in an overlaying side position as shown in Fig. 1 about a central, intermediate stiffener structure **16**. The portion **12** includes an upper base **18** having a stiffener member **19**, while the portion **14** includes a lower base stiffener **20** which also includes a stiffener such as the member **19**.

Secured to the intermediate stiffener structure **16** is a handle **22** that facilitates carrying the bag **10** when the same is folded in the manner shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The two portions **12** and **14** are secured in their folded condition by straps **24** and **26** mounted on the base stiffeners **18** and **20** to secure the same in their folded condition.

When the straps **24** and **26** are opened the garment bag **10** is folded open to serve much in the manner as a garment closet. To effectuate this purpose, a hook **28** retainable in an inactive position by a strap **30** may serve as a hanger for the complete garment bag **10** when the same is opened as shown in Figs. 3 and 6. The hook **28** thus may be employed to hang the garment bag from any suitable support structure.

The garment bag **10** comprises side linings **32** and an inside lining **33** that extend over the upper base stiffener **18** to the lower base stiffener **20** and that are sufficiently pliable to be flexed and bent into the formation shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or to be rolled together for storage in a manner to be explained. The bag **10** is provided with a front cover **34** having a closable flap **36** that is connected by a zipper **38** to form an integral part of the front cover **34** (see Fig. 3). A further zipper **40** provides access to a shoe compartment (not shown). Since the details of the linings and particular structure of the materials do not form a part of the invention, they may be of any well known design and construction.

In order that the bag **10** may be folded in halves as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the intermediate stiffener structure **16** is provided with a flat, stiff member **42** which extends transversely across the width from side **32** to side **32** of the bag **10**. The stiff member **42** is of such width as to aid in defining the thickness of the bag **10** when the same is folded as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. It further comprises rod members **44** inset in stitched securing covers **46** that form a part of the intermediate stiffener structure so that the rod members **44** extend transversely from one side of the bag to the other.

In order to support the upper and lower base stiffeners **18** and **20** and the intermediate stiffener **16** in their relative positions, and also the interconnecting sides **32**, the collapsible frame structure generally identified by numeral **47** comprises upper and lower sections including base frames **48** and **50** positioned adjacent and connected with the upper and lower base stiffeners **18** and **20** respectively. For the purpose of description of the frame structure **47** it is noted that both the upper and lower frame sections of the overall structure are almost exactly alike in detail, except however, that the upper frame structure incorporates a clothes hanger support generally identified by the numeral **52**. Hence, it will suffice for a description of both upper and lower frame sections of the composite frame structure **47** if a description of just the upper frame section is set forth hereinafter.

Swingably mounted on the transverse ends of the upper base frame **48** are arms **54**. Only one of such arms is completely shown in Figs. 3, 6 and 7 of the drawings. However, it will be recognized that a similar pair of arms **54***a* is pivoted to the opposite transverse ends of the base frame member **48** in the structure shown, while in Figs. 3 and 6 of the drawings the arm **54***a* is pivoted to one transverse end of the lower base frame member **50**.

The arms **54** are mounted for swinging movement between an active supporting position such as shown in full lines in Figs. 3, 6 and 7 in the drawings, to an inactive foldable position as shown by the dot-dash lines in Fig. 6. With the arms folded as shown by the dot-dash lines in Fig. 6, they overlay their respective base frames and in addition, each of the two arms swingably mounted to their respective base frames, overlay each other. The result is a compact inactive, non-supporting frame structure comprising a base frame and two overlaying frame arms. With the arms folded to their inactive overlaying positions they enable the flexible, pliable fabric comprising the sides and surfaces of the bag to be rolled one

over the other into a small compact package, easily stored or manipulated and carried when not in use.

In order to support the sides 32 of the bag 10 and to retain the upper and lower base stiffeners and intermediate stiffener one relative to the other in their supported condition such that the bag may be used as a clothes closet as shown in Figs. 3 and 6, or to be folded for carrying purposes as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the arms 54 are swung or unfolded to their full line positions as shown in Figs. 3, 6 and 7.

When the arms 54 are thus located in their full line positions, they lay adjacent to the sides 32 of the bag, and hence, form a support frame therefor. In order to lock the arms in their supporting positions, there is provided a locking or latching structure comprising flexible straps 56, which are preferably, though not necessarily, of spring steel. Straps 56 are securely and fixedly mounted in any suitable manner for example, by rivets 58, to the stiffener member 42 forming a part of the intermediate stiffener construction 16. Hence the flexible straps 56 are securely located for movement relative to the intermediate stiffener section and serve to impart to the valise the rounded corners 46, seen in Fig. 1.

The stiffener straps 56, one located on each transverse end of the member 42, and only one of which is shown in Figs. 3 and 6 and 7 of the drawings, include at their opposite ends, latching means or sockets 60. The latching means 60 cooperate with latching fingers 62 defined on each of the swingably mounted arms 54. Fingers 62 are formed by bending a portion of the wire that comprises the stretcher frame and supporting arm 54 to project the same from the body of the arm in a transverse direction so that the same may fit into the socket 60.

Thus, when the arms 54 are swung into their respective bag-supporting, bag-stretching positions (full line) they are there retained by the cooperative engagement of the latching fingers 62 in the latching means or sockets 60 provided in the flexible straps 56. Flexible straps 56 which extend across the width of the intermediate stiffener section 42, interconnect the supporting arms of the upper and lower frame sections to define an integral frame construction that supports the flexible covering of the back 33, and the upper, lower and intermediate portions of the bag 10 in their supporting positions. It will be noted that the arms 54 and the base frames 48 and 50 are formed of wire construction. The wire is easily formed to provide the desired configuration disclosed.

If it is desired to store the bag when the same is not in use, it is rolled into a compact package. To roll the bag 10 it is merely necessary to open the flap 36 by actuating the zipper 38 so that the wire frame supporting arms 54 are then exposed to view. The fingers 62 are released from engagement with the latching means 60. The arms are then folded up toward their respective base members with each arm overlaying the other and also in overlaying relationship to their base members. The flap 36 may then be closed and the upper stiffener portion 18 of the bag 10 is then rolled down toward the lower stiffener portion 20. In so doing, the overlaying arms will be rolled into the folds of the pliable covering of the bag. When the rolled structure reaches the intermediate portion 18, the straps 56, being of a flexible, yet sturdy material, will roll into the folds of the bag about the inactive frame support. Hence the flexible straps 56, although sufficiently strong to latchingly retain the supporting arms of the upper and lower frame sections relative to each other, are of such flexible nature as to permit them to be rolled into the folds of the bag when the same is compacted.

The clothes hanger support 52 as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, serves to lock clothes hangers and clothes in place in the garment bag 10 so that they will not be accidentally displaced therefrom to fall in a heap at the bottom of the bag. In order to accomplish this, the novel structure of the support 52 permits a clothes hanger to be hooked about a base portion 64 of a U-shaped hanger support member 66. Thus, as seen in Fig. 4, the hook arm 68 of a clothes hanger 70 has been hooked about the base 64 so that the clothes on the hanger are suspended within the confines of the bag 10.

The U-shaped support member 66 is retained at the ends of its upstanding legs in a frame structure 72 that is in turn secured to the upper base stiffener 18 by any suitable fastening means (Fig. 5). Depending downwardly from the frame 72 are a pair of spaced legs 74 that are secured at their upper ends by suitable fastening means to the frame 72. The spaced legs 74 are curled at the base thereof to pivotally accommodate an operable arm 78.

Arm 78 is formed in the nature of a crank having pivot portions thereof extending through the curled openings of the legs 74 and having a depending crank portion 80 positioned between the legs. A pair of lift arms or links 82 are swingably mounted on the crank portion 80 at their upper ends and connect for movement with the operable crank arm 78 a locking bar or member 84. The locking bar or member 84 is channel-shaped with the legs of the channel extending downwardly in parallel relationship with the base portion 64 of the member 66.

Hence, when the locking bar is in its lowermost position as shown by the full lines in Fig. 4, its downwardly extending legs will limit the swinging movement of the hanger 70, while its horizontally connecting portion between the legs overlays the hook 68 to limit any possible accidental displacement thereof from about the portion 64. The locking member 84 is constantly urged into its locking position by a pair of springs 86 located about each of the upstanding arms of the U-shaped hanger member 66, and thus expandingly bear against the bar to move it downwardly against the portion 64.

When however, it is desired to hook a hanger about the support member 66, the operable arm 78 is moved to swing from its full line position as shown in Fig. 4 to its dot-dash line position, thereby raising its crank 80 to lift the locking bar 84 in opposition to the normal urging of the springs 86. The crank portion 80, being angularly offset from the arm 78, is thus moved upwardly into a toggle position whereby the normal urging of the springs 86 is overcome. In this way, the locking bar 84 may be retained in its dot-dash inactive position (Fig. 4), while clothes are hung on the portion 64 of the support member 66. When it is then again desired to lock the hangers in place about the support, the arm 78 is operated slightly to overcome the toggle action created between its crank 80 and its supports 74 to return the locking bar 84 into its normal locking position.

While there have been shown and described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to a preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the device illustrated and in its operation may be made by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the claims appended hereto.

I claim:

1. In a collapsible frame for a garment bag having an intermediate wall and side walls, said frame comprising a base, a pair of arms swingable on said base between active and inactive positions, a pair of flexible straps mounted on said intermediate wall, latch means on said flexible straps, and latch means on said swingable arms cooperable with said latch means on said straps when said swingable arms are in said active position to latch the same to support said side wall.

2. A frame for a collapsible bag having an intermediate wall and side walls comprising a transverse base, arms swingably mounted on the transverse ends of said base for movement between supporting and collapsing positions, flexible straps one for each of said arms fixedly

mounted on said intermediate wall of said bag, each strap including latch means thereon on the ends thereof, and latch means on each of said arms adjacent the free ends thereof, cooperable with said strap latch means to retain said arms in their supporting positions.

3. In a collapsible bag having upper, lower and intermediate stiffeners, a frame for supporting said bag comprising upper and lower base members secured to said upper and lower stiffeners respectively, arms swingably mounted on each of said bases between bag supporting and collapsing positions, each of said arms having latch means, flexible straps fixedly secured to said intermediate stiffener, and means on each of said flexible straps for latching cooperation with said latch means on said arms to latch the same in said supporting positions to support said upper, lower and intermediate stiffeners relative to each other.

4. In a rollable collapsible garment bag having upper, lower and intermediate stiffeners, a collapsible frame therefor comprising upper and lower bases extending along said upper and lower stiffeners respectively, arm swingably mounted on said bases at the ends thereof for movement between supporting and collapsing positions, each of said arms including latch means, rollable latch straps fixedly secured on said intermediate stiffener and including latch means extending toward said upper and lower stiffeners for latching cooperation with said latch means on each of said arms to latch the latter in their supporting

positions and to roll about itself when said arms are collapsed to enable said upper, intermediate and lower stiffeners to be rolled together.

5. A frame as in claim 4, said straps extending across the width of said intermediate stiffener to interconnect the swingable arms of said upper and lower bases.

6. In a collapsible frame for a garment bag having an intermediate wall and spaced side walls, a base, spaced arms each swingably mounted on said base for movement between an inactive position wherein they overlay said base and an active base wherein they each support a side wall of said bag, spaced flexible straps mounted on said intermediate wall, said straps being rollable about said arms and base when said arms are in their inactive overlaying position, said flexible straps each having latch means, and latch means on each of said swingable arms cooperable with said latch means on said flexible straps to latch said arms in their active position to support their respective side walls.

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