Feb. 20, 1940. J. M. FELDMAN 2,190,707

PORTFOLIO CASE

Filed Oct. 17, 1938

Fig. 1

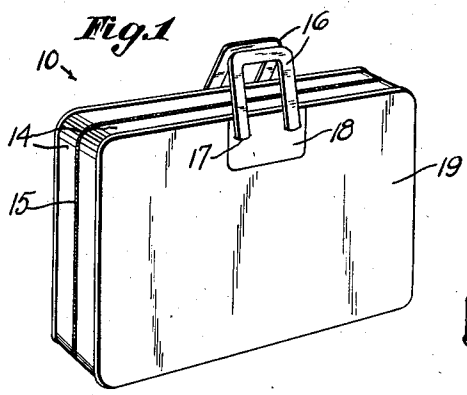


Fig. 2

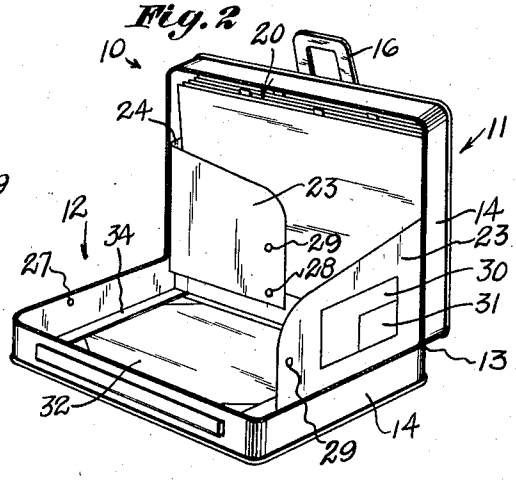


Fig. 3

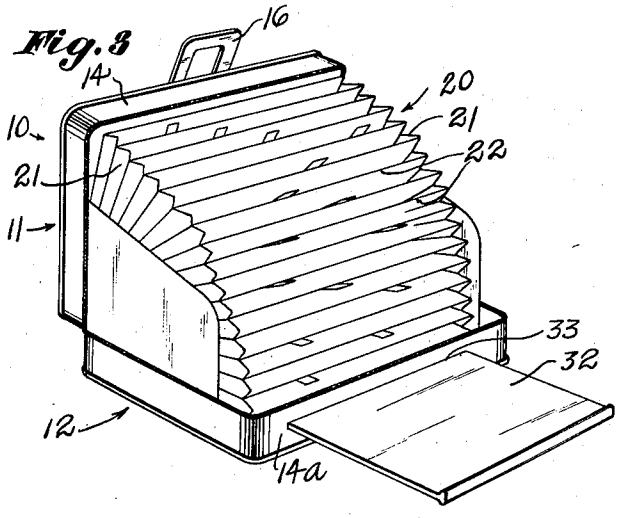


Fig. 5

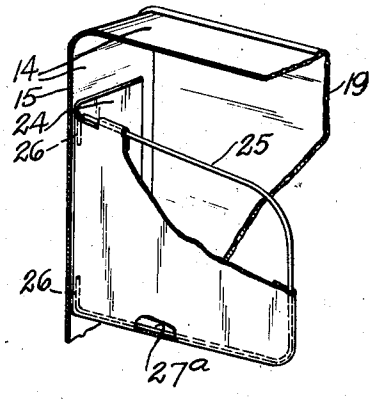


Fig. 4

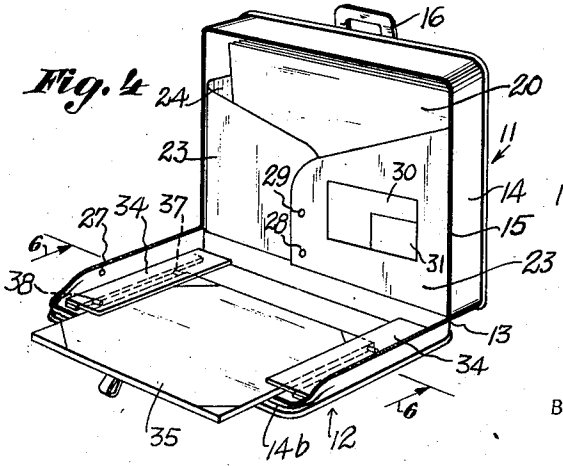
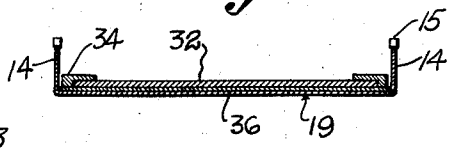


Fig. 6



INVENTOR.
Joseph M. Feldman

BY Kruse Schumacher

ATTORNEY.

Patented Feb. 20, 1940 2,190,707

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,190,707

PORTFOLIO CASE

Joseph M. Feldman, New York, N. Y.

Application October 17, 1938, Serial No. 235,411

4 Claims. (Cl. 129—15)

This invention relates to portfolio cases, particularly of the type wherein an expansible portfolio is mounted on an upright case member so as to be expansible downward toward the horizontal case member, in the open position of the case.

Such a case has always been heretofore provided with a rigid frame to permit toggles to be connected thereto to keep the case open for the suspension of the portfolio in use.

Also such case has generally required some separate locking device to keep the portfolio collapsed when desired.

It is accordingly one object of the invention to provide such case without a frame or rigid structure so as to reduce the weight of the case.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a case with flexible side walls to permit the case to be carried under the arm, in collapsed condition, like a brief case.

Another object of the invention is to provide improved means to hold the case open and distribute the resulting stresses along the flexible case walls.

Another object of the invention is the provision of improved means for holding the case open and for retaining contents in the case in the closed position.

Another object of the invention is the provision of improved means to hold the case open and to afford a partition in the closed position of the case.

Another object of the invention is to provide a flexible case with partition means adapted to hold the case open and to move with one of the case members upon collapsing thereof.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a receptacle such as a case having the advantages indicated, and having few and simple parts, and which is inexpensive to make, and durable, reliable and efficient in use.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated in the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective isometric view of a case embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a similar view thereof with one of the braces in position to hold the case open and with the writing board in its inward operative position.

Fig. 3 is a similar view thereof with the portfolio expanded and the writing board in outward operative position.

Fig. 4 is a similar view of a modified form of the case, with the writing board partially withdrawn, and the braces in the partition forming position.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view with parts removed showing details of the brace structure.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 4.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 10 denotes a case embodying the invention and which is light and flexible so that it need not be carried only as a satchel, but may also be carried under the arm as a brief case to permit the owner to enter offices where he would not be admitted without undue questioning if he were carrying a satchel and hence appeared to be a salesman.

The case 10 may include a plurality of sections or case members such as 11, 12, hingedly interconnected along one side as at 13 so that one member acts as a cover for the other. Desirably the case is arranged so that section 11 is upright or vertical and section 12 horizontal in the normal open position of the case.

Each case member 11, 12 may have a marginal wall of flexible material 14 extending continuously along the sides and ends thereof, a closure such as a slide fastener 15 extending along the ends and one side of the case to serve to interconnect the case sections to close the case as shown in Fig. 1.

Any suitable handles 16 may be provided, preferably of the type partially slidable inward and downward through openings 17 in the pocket forming members 18 that are secured to the front and back walls 19 of the case. The arrangement is such that the handles can slide outward to operative position but cannot be withdrawn.

Within the case member 11 is an expansible

case or portfolio 20, which, in collapsed position lies wholly in the member 11 and within the marginal walls, but in expanded position as shown in Fig. 3 angularly extends from one case member to the other. In the latter position, the portfolio depends from the upright case member 11 to which it is permanently or detachably secured, for example, an end wall of the portfolio being attached to the wall 19 of the member 11, for instance, in accordance with my Patent No. 1,806,246, issued May 19, 1931. It will be perceived that the portfolio 20 is any well known type and includes highly pliable pleated gussets 21 in the folds of which the partitions 22 may be removably or permanently connected. It will be noted that the gussets 21 may carry the lowermost wall at a point spaced above the horizontal case member 12, or may have sufficient extent to permit the lowermost wall of the portfolio to rest securely on the case member. It will now be apparent that all the compartments of the portfolio are fully open for instant inspection and removal of contents, and can be instantly folded to collapsed position back into the case member 11 as shown in Fig. 2.

In order to reliably hold the portfolio in its expanded position, I provide one or more braces 23 which coact in such a manner as sustain in whole or in part the weight of the upper part of the portfolio. Heretofore toggles have been provided connected to the portfolio element or to the case element. The braces herein shown are connected to one of these elements, preferably the case, as at the case member 11, for instance, to the flexible end walls 14 thereof, in a movable manner, desirably hingedly, with the hinge axes being lengthwise of said end walls. The braces may be variously arranged and constructed according to one or more of their desired functions, and may have flexible hinge-like portions 24 connecting them to the adjacent end walls 14. The rest of the braces may be stiffened and arranged to transmit stress to the flexible marginal walls over a considerable length. Thus the braces 23 may comprise flexible sheet material with a U-shaped wire reenforcement 25 whose ends 26 terminate at the flexible portions 24.

Since the braces 23 extend down to the hinge line 13 of the case, they may be readily swung outward to lie at right angles to the case sections, for releasable securement or engagement with the horizontal case member 12, for example, at the flexible marginal walls thereof, as by means of the mating releasable pin and hole fasteners 27, 28. In the attached position, the horizontal lower run 27a of the wire may rest directly upon the bottom wall 19 of the case member 12, the adjacent flexible marginal wall 14 yielding downward for this purpose, if necessary. Thus the case is reliably held in the open position of Fig. 3 to adequately support the open expanded portfolio.

If desired, the braces 23 may serve as retainers for articles in the case member 11 or may form partition means therefor in the closed position of the case. Thus the braces may interengage or partially overlap each other for engagement with the collapsed portfolio. Preferably the braces may be releasably interconnected as by snap fasteners 29 to thus afford a single continuous partition that extends down to the hinge line 13 and neatly and reliably retains the portfolio, without strain thereon, and without requiring any special manipulation for opening of the partition.

If required, the braces 23 may also serve as a compartment or pocket means for which purpose they may have pockets such as 30, 31 secured on a suitable face thereof. These pockets are conveniently accessible in any position of the braces 23, and regardless of the position of the portfolio, nor do these pockets in any way interfere with the writing board hereinafter described, nor require any particular manipulation in opening and closing the case.

Since the case 10 is intended to be widely used by traveling salesmen, it is desirable to provide some means whereby the salesman can conveniently write while holding the case and portfolio open on his lap. Accordingly there is provided in the case member 12 a writing board 32 which is easily movable inward and outward, for instance, toward and away from the hinge line 13 and between the braces 23, whereby the latter will not interfere with nor exert pressure on the writing board to retard its movement. The writing board may be movable through a slot opening 33 in the front marginal wall 14a and thence along suitable guides such as 34 affixed to the bottom wall 19 of the case member 12, according to the structure more particularly shown in Fig. 4.

A cheaper arrangement is that shown in Fig. 4 wherein the writing board 35 is slidable outward over the front flexible wall 14b which is in consequence collapsed. Any suitable guide means, such as angle members 34 are used which may be secured to a board such as a tab or flap as shown in my prior patent hereinbefore referred to, whereby the braces 23 may be used as in Fig. 3, and the portfolio kept closed, so that the writing board can be used in its inward position.

The guides 34 may be secured to a reenforcement plate 36 for the wall 19. To limit outward movement of the board 35, the latter may have outwardly projecting stop pins 37 engageable with like inwardly projecting stop pins 38 affixed to the guides 34, as shown in Fig. 4, these pins 37, 38 being concealed within the said guides.

I claim:

1. A device including a case having case members hingedly connected together for relative movement to closed position and to open position with one case member being upright, a portfolio having upright expansible end gussets of pliant material, said portfolio being connected to the upright case member and resting on the companion case member in the downwardly expanded position of the end gussets, and brace members connected to the upright case member at the ends thereof, means releasably connecting the brace members to the companion case member at the ends of the latter, said brace members holding the upright case member in upright position, the said gussets being in close proximity to the adjacent brace members so as to be guidingly laterally supported by the brace members with the latter being of sufficient size to overlie substantial areas of the gussets, said brace members hingedly related to said upright case member along the ends of the latter so as to be inwardly swingable toward the upright case member to enclose the portfolio in the collapsed position of the latter.

2. A device including a case having an upper case member and a lower case member, said case members being hingedly interconnected with the upper case member being upright in the open

position of the case, braces hingedly connected to the upright case member along the ends thereof so as to be movable to lie along the inner face of said upright case member and outward to engage the lower case member along the ends thereof, means releasably connecting the brace members to the lower case member in the said outward position of the brace members, the latter constituting plate-like parallel elements in the said outward releasably connected position thereof, a portfolio connected at one side to the upper case member and having end gussets expansible so that the other side of the portfolio rests on the lower case member, said gussets lying between and closely adjacent to the brace members to be guidingly retained thereby against lateral movement, said brace members enclosing the portfolio in collapsed position thereof with the brace members in inward position, and means releasably retaining the brace members in said inward position to maintain the portfolio collapsed, said portfolio being otherwise freely expansible.

3. A device including a case having an upper case member and a lower case member, said case members being hingedly interconnected with the upper case member being upright in the open position of the case, braces hingedly connected to the upright case member along the ends thereof so as to be movable to lie along the inner face of said upright case member and outward to engage the lower case member along the ends thereof, means releasably connecting the brace members to the lower case member in the said outward position of the brace members, the latter constituting plate-like parallel elements in the said outward releasably connected position thereof, and means for releasably interconnecting the brace members in the inward position thereof, with the brace members sufficiently spaced from the adjacent inner face of the upright case member to provide a partially closed space for enclosing an expansible portfolio, with said brace members adapted to guidingly laterally retain the portfolio in its expanded position when the brace members are connected to the lower case member.

4. A device including a case having an upper case member and a lower case member, said case members being hingedly interconnected with the upper case member being upright in the open position of the case, braces hingedly connected to the upright case member along the ends thereof so as to be movable to lie along the inner face of said upright case member and outward to engage the lower case member along the ends thereof, means releasably connecting the brace members to the lower case member in the said outward position of the brace members, an expansible-collapsible container connected to the upper case member so as to be freely expansible outward and downward toward the lower case member, said container lying within the upper case member in its collapsed position and being thus maintained by the brace members in the inward position of the latter, and means releasably securing the brace members in said inward position.

JOSEPH M. FELDMAN.