June 3, 1969 M. KISH, JR 3,447,649

THREE-CHAMBER CARRYING BAG HAVING SPACED REINFORCING WIRES AND THREE-WAY GARMENT FOLD ARRANGEMENT

Filed Oct. 23, 1967 Sheet 1 of 6

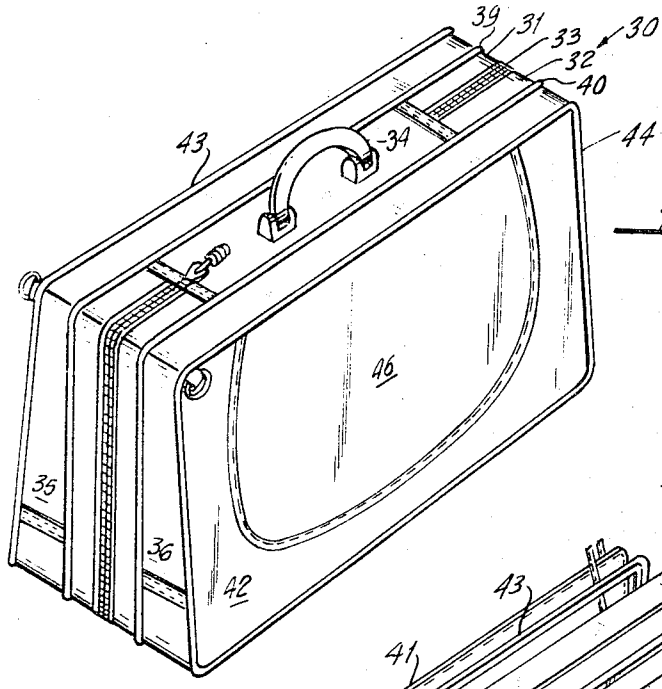


FIG. 1.

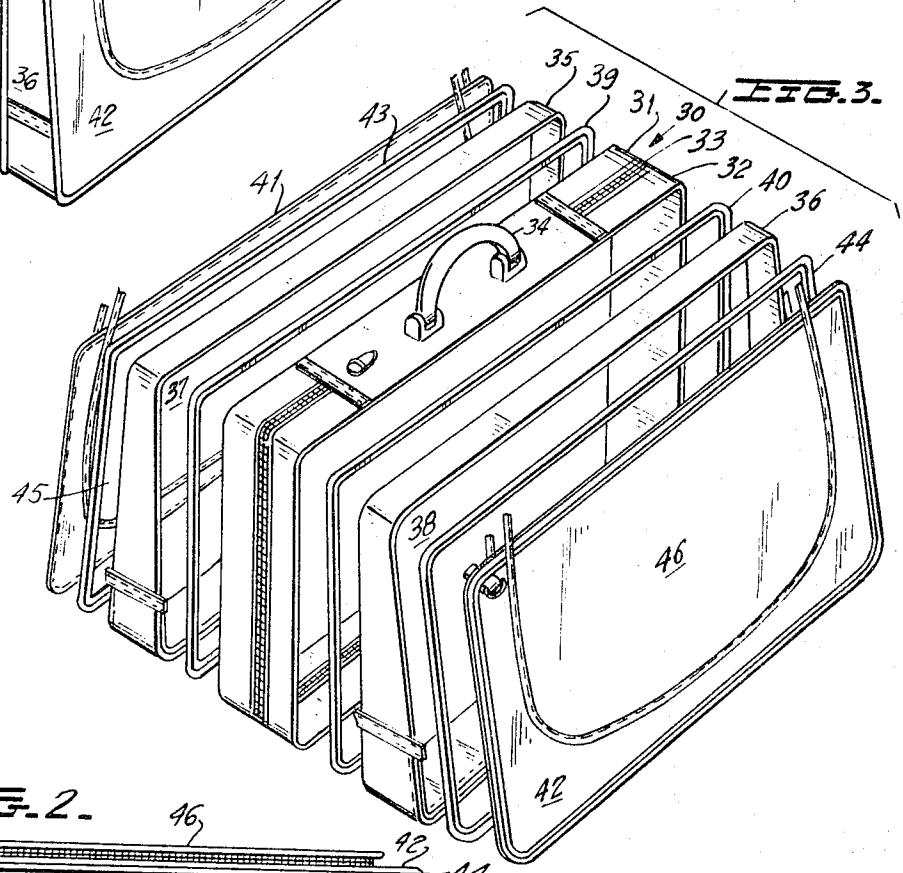
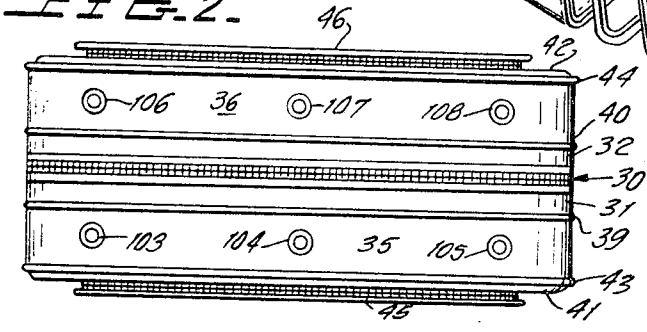


FIG. 3.

FIG. 2.



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Filed Oct. 23, 1967 Sheet 2 of 6

FIG. 4.

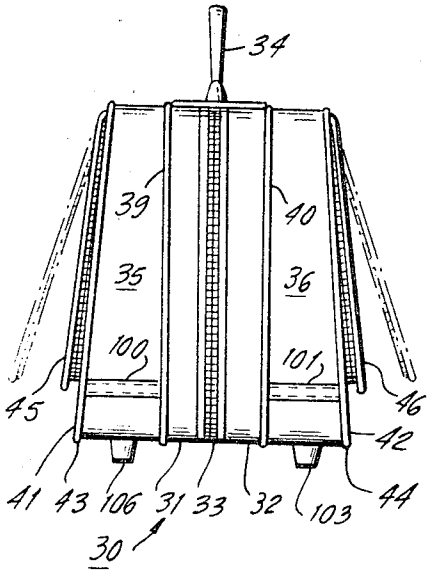


FIG. 16.

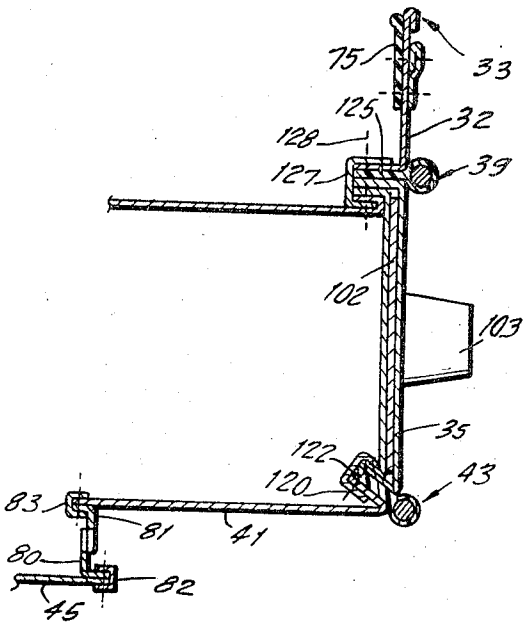


FIG. 5.

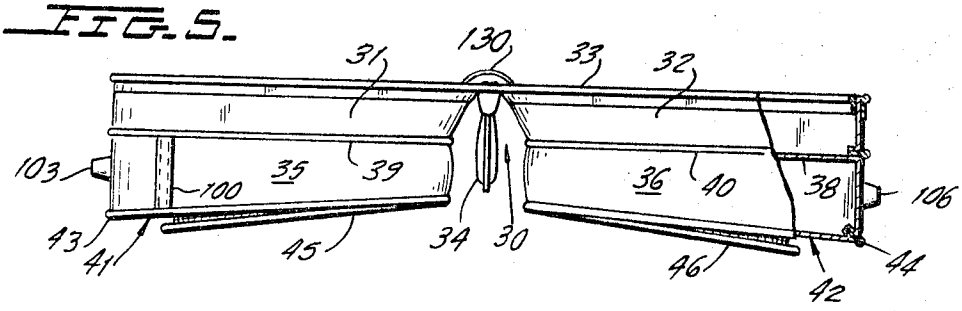
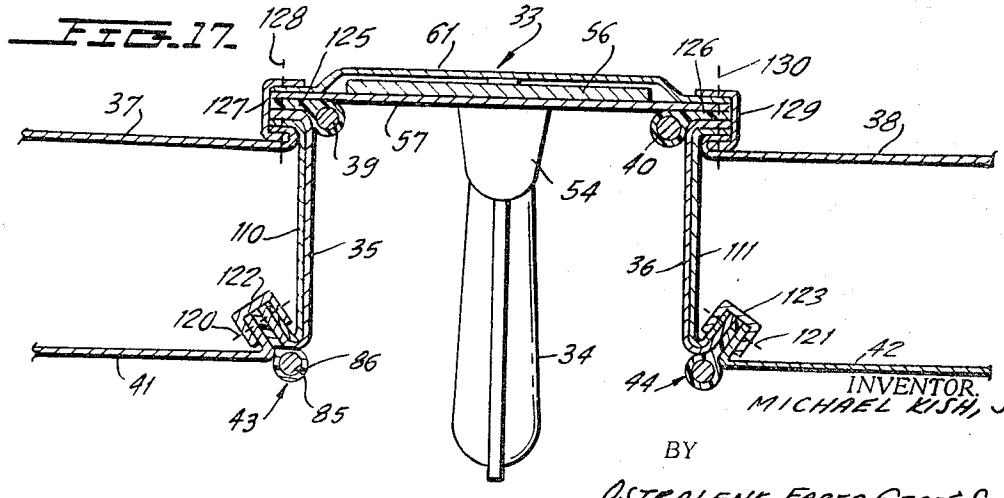


FIG. 17.



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June 3, 1969 M. KISH, JR 3,447,649

THREE-CHAMBER CARRYING BAG HAVING SPACED REINFORCING WIRES AND THREE-WAY GARMENT FOLD ARRANGEMENT

Filed Oct. 23, 1967 Sheet 3 of 6

FIG. 6.

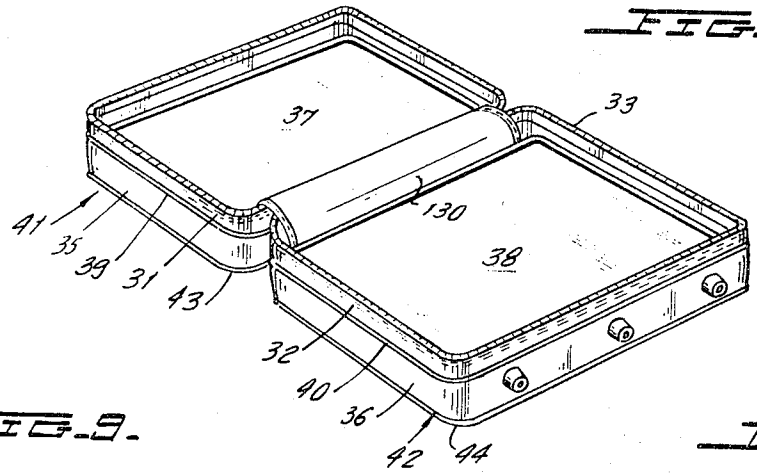


FIG. 9.

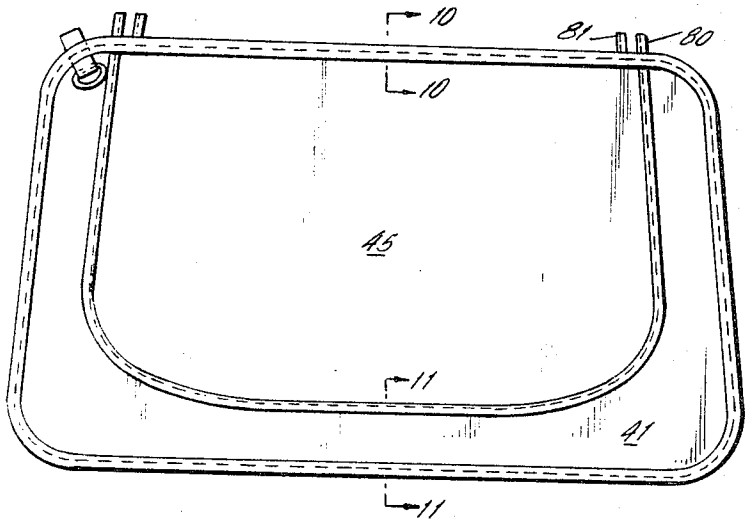
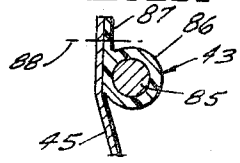


FIG. 10.



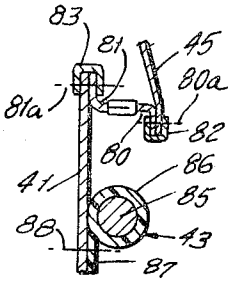
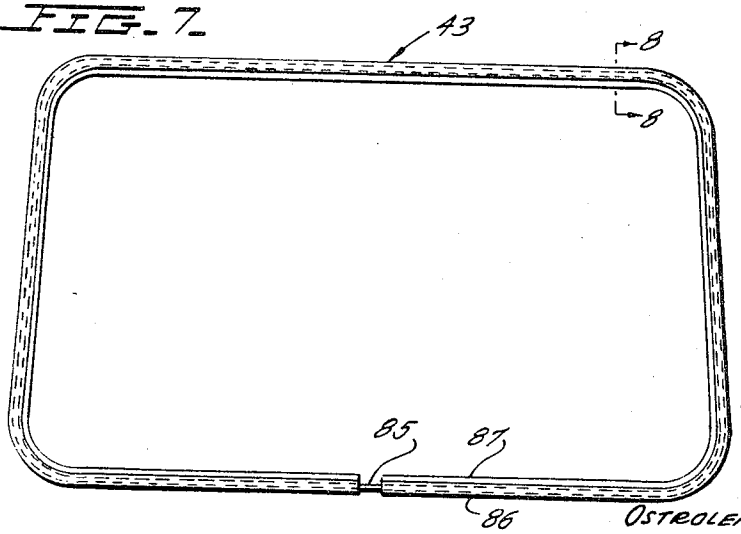


FIG. 11.

FIG. 7.



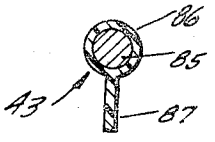


FIG. 8.

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June 3, 1969 M. KISH, JR 3,447,649

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Filed Oct. 23, 1967 Sheet 4 of 6

FIG. 12.

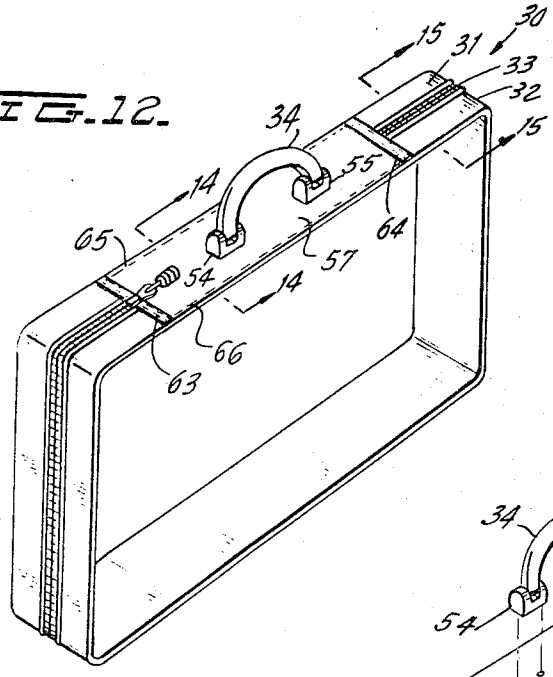


FIG. 15.

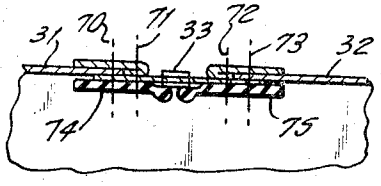


FIG. 13.

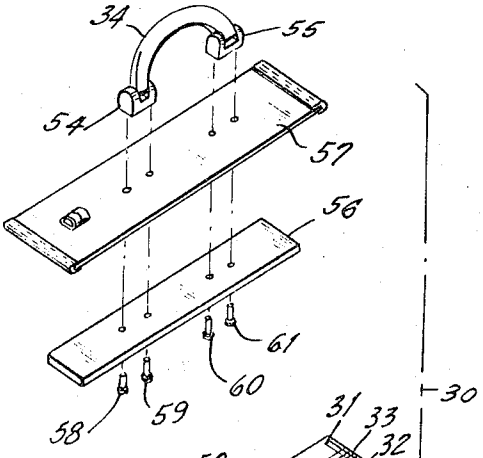
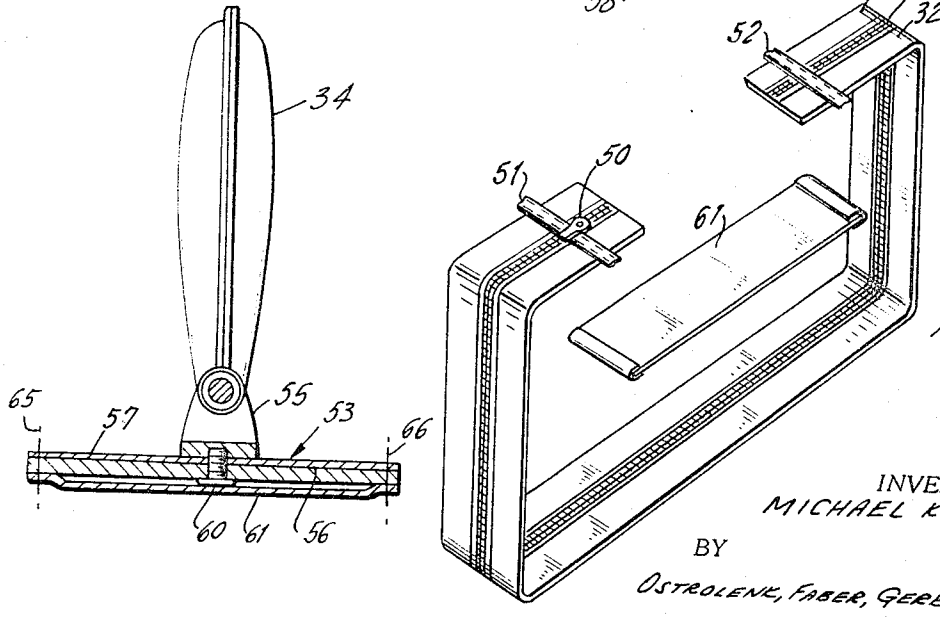


FIG. 14.



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THREE-CHAMBER CARRYING BAG HAVING SPACED REINFORCING WIRES AND THREE-WAY GARMENT FOLD ARRANGEMENT

Filed Oct. 23, 1967 Sheet 5 of 6

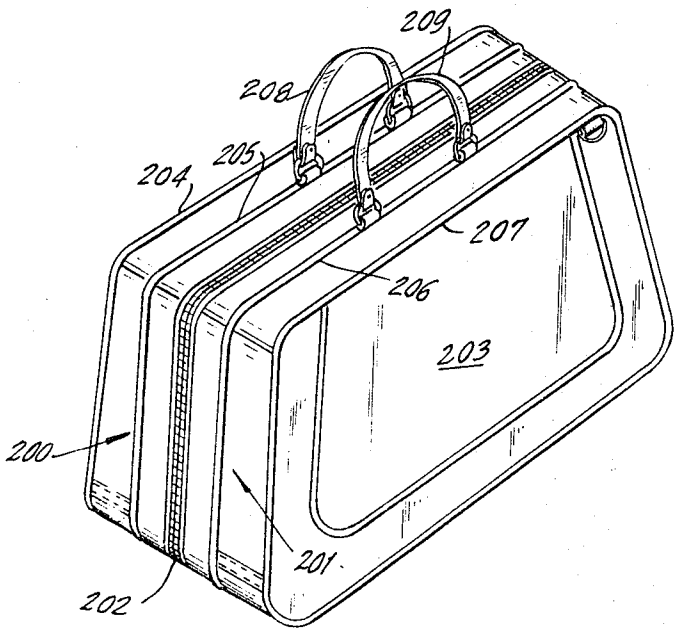


FIG. 18.

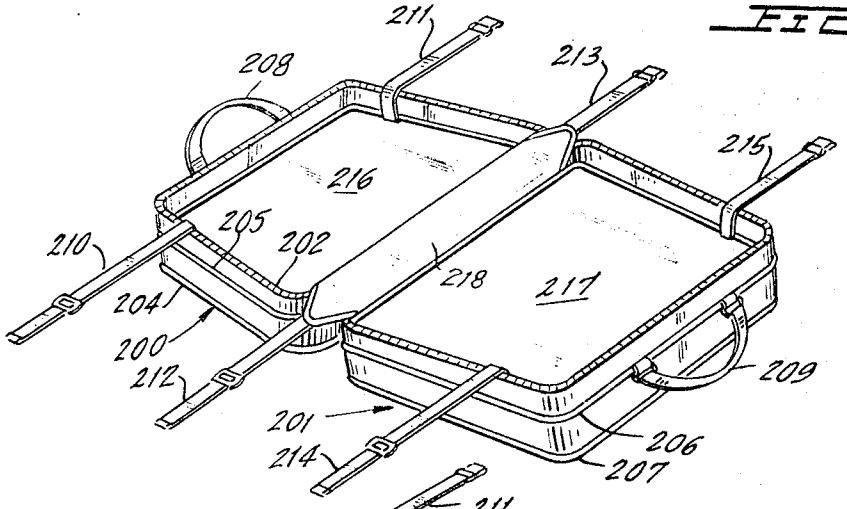


FIG. 19.

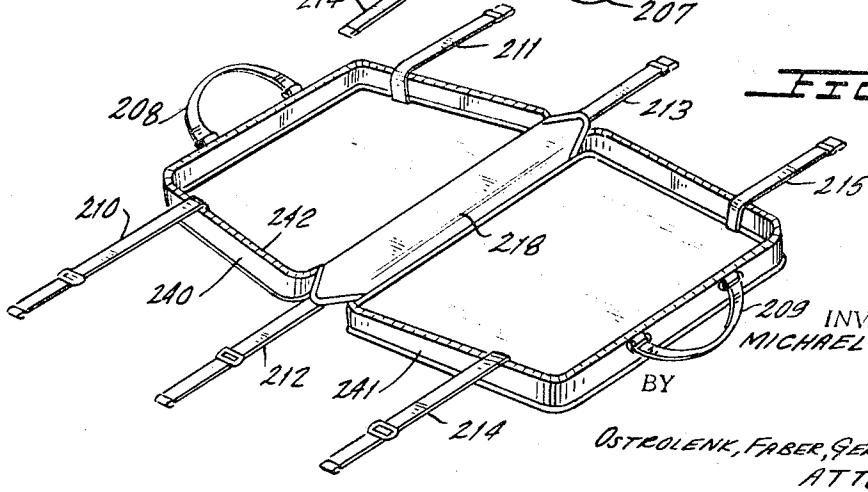


FIG. 23.

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THREE-CHAMBER CARRYING BAG HAVING SPACED REINFORCING WIRES AND THREE-WAY GARMENT FOLD ARRANGEMENT

Filed Oct. 23, 1967 Sheet 6 of 6

FIG. 20.

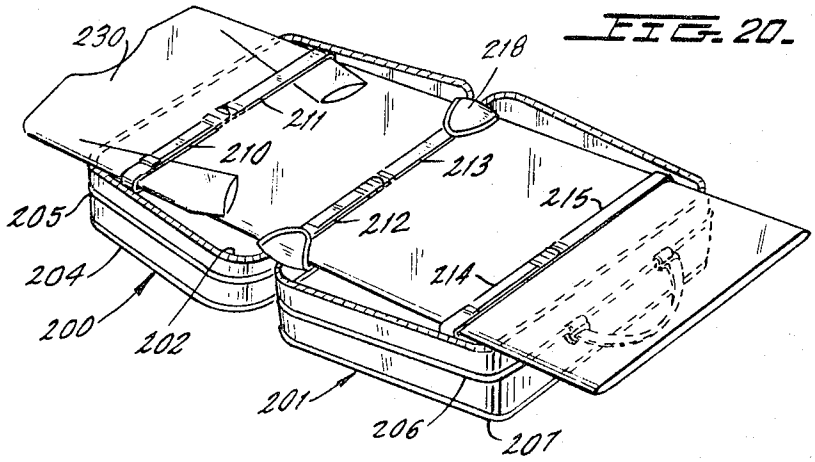
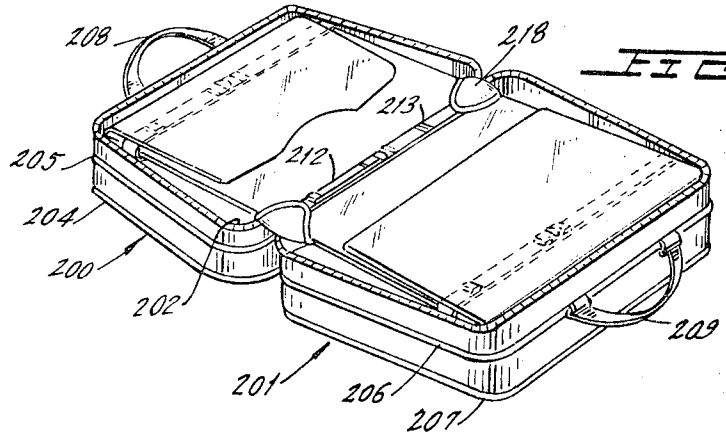


FIG. 21.



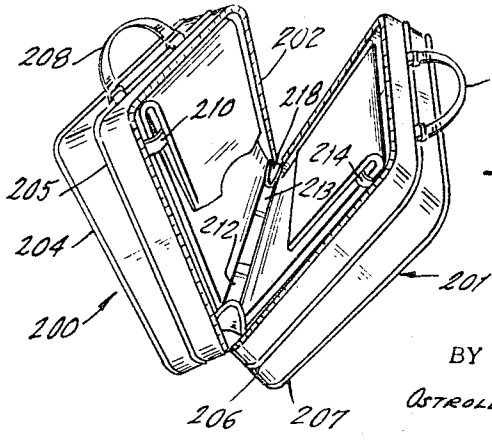


FIG. 22.

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United States Patent Office 3,447,649
Patented June 3, 1969

3,447,649

THREE-CHAMBER CARRYING BAG HAVING SPACED REINFORCING WIRES AND THREE-WAY GARMENT FOLD ARRANGEMENT

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Filed Oct. 23, 1967, Ser. No. 677,344
Int. Cl. A45c 13/00, 3/00
U.S. Cl. 190—50 11 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A carrying bag having a central zipper opening which forms a central chamber for suits or dresses and two side chambers accessible through U-shaped flaps, closed by zippers, in the side walls of the bags. The bottoms of the two side chambers form the walls of the center enclosure. Four identical spaced wire stays form the main support for the three compartments and the bag. Three garment support straps extend transversely across the center chamber, at its center and its opposite ends. When the bag is opened flat the straps can grip elongated garments, such as dresses, at their center and portions spaced from their opposite ends. The garments are then folded inwardly over the end straps, and the chamber is closed, automatically folding the garments at three folds into four neat layers.

This invention relates to carrying bags and more specifically relates to a novel multi-compartment bag having flexible panels and a plurality of identical spaced wires for imparting rigidity to the bag along with a novel strap arrangement for a bag interior to improve the storage of garments therein.

A primary object of this invention is to provide a novel structure for carrying bags which produces an attractive sturdy arrangement which is easy to manufacture.

Another object of this invention is to produce a novel bag structure formed of three discrete storage compartments which are defined between four reinforcing wires which support the bag.

Yet another object of this invention is to form a novel garment support arrangement within a carrying bag.

A further object of this invention is to provide a support arrangement for a carrying bag which eliminates the need for auxiliary garment folding apparatus.

These and other objects of this invention will become apparent from the following description when taken in connection with the drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the bag of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a bottom view of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is an exploded perspective view of the bag of FIGURES 1 and 2.

FIGURE 4 is a side view of FIGURE 1 with the side panels shown in their open position in phantom lines.

FIGURE 5 shows a side view of the bag when fully opened at its central opening.

FIGURE 6 shows the opened bag of FIGURE 5 in perspective view.

FIGURE 7 shows a front plan view of one of the four reinforcing wires used in the bag construction.

FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional view of FIGURE 7 taken across the section line **8—8** in FIGURE 7.

FIGURE 9 is a front plan view of a subassembled side panel which receives a wire of the type of FIGURE 7 around its periphery and has a U-shaped flap therein.

FIGURE 10 is a cross-sectional view of FIGURE 9 taken across section line **10—10** in FIGURE 9.

FIGURE 11 is a cross-sectional view of FIGURE 9 taken across section line **11—11** in FIGURE 9.

FIGURE 12 shows a perspective view of the central frame of the bag of FIGURES 1, 2 and 3.

FIGURE 13 is an exploded perspective view of the central frame of FIGURE 12.

FIGURE 14 is a cross-sectional view of FIGURE 12 taken across section line **14—14** in FIGURE 12.

FIGURE 15 is a cross-sectional view taken across section line **15—15** in FIGURE 12.

FIGURE 16 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the bottom construction of the bag, shown in FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 17 is an enlarged cross-section view showing the center opening portion of the bag when in the position of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 18 is a perspective view of a bag similar to that of FIGURE 1 which opens from the top thereof and contains novel garment receiving straps for positioning and folding garments within the bag.

FIGURE 19 shows the bag of FIGURE 18 in the open position and shows garment receiving straps therein.

FIGURE 20 shows a dress strapped into the open bag of FIGURE 19.

FIGURE 21 shows the garments of FIGURE 20 with its ends folded over the end straps.

FIGURE 22 shows the bag of FIGURE 21 in the partly closed position.

FIGURE 23 shows a perspective view of a single chamber bag in the open position using the novel straps of the bag of FIGURES 19 to 22.

Referring first to FIGURES 1 to 4, the carrying bag is composed of a flexible central tubular section **30** which may be of a vinyl, or the like, having two side sections **31** and **32** joined by a zipper **33** which may be of any desired type. A carrying handle **34** is connected to a section **30**, as will be later described. Two flexible side gussets **35** and **36** which have fabric walls **37** and **38**, respectively, over one of their ends are then secured to the ends of section **30** with two reinforcing wires **39** and **40** connected between gussets **35** and **36** and the respective ends of central section **30**. Flexible side panels **41** and **42**, which may be of fabric or vinyl, or the like, are then connected to the open outer ends of gussets **35** and **36** with two additional reinforcing wires **43** and **44** identical to wires **39** and **40** connected between panels **41** and **42** and gussets **35** and **36**, respectively. Side panels **41** and **42** then have U-shaped flaps **45** and **46**, respectively, therein which are secured to their panels by suitable zipper closures.

From the foregoing, it will be understood that the bag which is primarily of soft material is essentially supported by the four spaced identical wires **39**, **40**, **43** and **44**. These wires typically may be of steel having a diameter of about ⅛ inch. The bag then contains a central chamber bounded by walls **37** and **38** and section **30** and reached through zipper **33** with the chamber fully opened, as shown in FIGURES 5 and 6, to receive a man's suit, or woman's dress, or the like; and two side chambers, reached through flaps **45** and **46** for storage of clothing and shoes, or the like.

The novel structure of the invention thus provides a highly useful carrying bag which is simple to manufacture and inexpensive by virtue of the four-wire support arrangement.

In manufacturing the bag, the various components can be individually made as subassemblies which are subsequently connected to one another in a finishing operation. FIGURES 12 to 15 show the details of central section **30** and the method used for its manufacture. As shown in FIGURE 13, the two halves of zipper **33**, which may be a zipper using plastic loops, are sewn to the opposing

ends of flexible gusset strips **31** and **32**. A zipper pull **50** is then placed on the zipper halves, and fabric strips **51** and **52** are sewn across the opposite ends of strips **31** and **32**. A handle panel subassembly **53** is then formed, comprising handle **34**, handle support posts **54** and **55**, a rigid fiber sheet **56** and an upper finishing sheet **57** which are riveted together as by rivets **58** to **61**. The subassembly **53** (FIGURE 14) is then placed atop the opposite ends of gusset strips **31** and **32** and an interior lining **61** is placed beneath these ends, and lining **62** and subassembly are sewn in place along stitch lines **63** and **64**, shown in FIGURE 12. A second pair of stitch lines **65** and **66** (FIGURES 12 and 14) sew the lateral sides of subassembly **53** and liner **61** together.

FIGURE 15 shows the flexible halves of zipper **33** sewn to gusset strips **31** and **32** by stitch lines **70–71** and **72–73**, respectively, in conjunction with rigid strips **74** and **75** below the respective zipper halves, as described in my copending application Ser. No. 647,841, filed June 21, 1967. entitled "Luggage and Method of Manufacture Therefor Having Zipper Closure."

The side panels **41** and **42** are then manufactured as shown in FIGURES 7 to 10 for the case of panel **41**. The panel consists of a flexible panel body of vinyl or some other suitable material which has a U-shaped opening therein covered by the U-shaped flap **45**. Flap **45** has a zipper half **80** (FIGURE 11) sewn around the periphery therof by stitch line **80***a*. Zipper half **80** cooperates with zipper half **81** sewn around the periphery of the corresponding U-shaped opening in panel **41** by stitch line **81***a*. Finishing strips **82** and **83** cover the edges of zipper halves **80** and **81** and the edges of panel **41** and flap **45**, respectively. Note that the ends of the zipper halves **80** and **81** project beyond the upper edge of flap **45** and may be subsequently cut after assembly of the side panel.

Reinforcing rod **43**, panel **41** and flap **45** are then all secured together by a single stitch line to complete the assembly. More particularly, reinforcing rod **43** consists of a steel wire **85** which is inserted into an extruded plastic sheath **86** which has an extending sewing flange **87**. The wire is then bent to its rectangular form and its ends are welded together. The wire is then sewn to both flap **45** and panel **41** by continuous stitch line **88** (FIGURES 10 and 11) which extends through flange **87**, around the periphery of panel **41** and across the top of flap **45**. This completes the panel subassembly, with two such panels made for each bag.

The two gussets **35** and **36** are next prepared of two elongated strips of fabric or vinyl, or the like, as shown in FIGURES 5, 16 and 17, with the end of the strips sewn together with finishing strips **100** and **101** (FIGURES 4 and 5). In addition, internal rigid fiber strips such as strip **102** (FIGURE 16) are sewn to what will be the bottom of the gussets **35** and **36** and support legs **103–104–105** and **106–107–108** are riveted to these fiber strips, as seen in FIGURES 2, 4, 5 and 16. The interior surface of gussets **35** and **36** is then covered by sewn finishing strips **110** and **111**, respectively.

In assembling the various subassemblies, the peripheral rim of gussets **35** and **36** are secured to the peripheral rim panels **41** and **42**, as shown in FIGURES 16 and 17, stitch lines **120** and **121**, respectively, with the edges of the connection covered by finishing strips **122** and **123**, respectively.

Thereafter, and as shown in FIGURES 16 and 17, the gussets **35** and **36** are fastened to the opposite ends of central section **33**; and to panels **37** and **38**, respectively; and to reinforcing wires **39** and **40**, respectively. Reinforcing wires **39** and **40** are identical to wires **43** and **44** and are encased in extruded sheaths having the extending sewing flanges **125** and **126**, respectively. In forming the final connection, it may be convenient to initially sew together the peripheral edges of panel **37**, gusset **35** and flange **125**. Thereafter, these components can be sewn to the edge of central member **33**, along with a finishing strip

127 by a common stitch line **128**. Alternatively, a single common stitch line **128** could be used as shown. The same operation is then used to secure together the gusset **36**, panel **38**, flange **126**, finishing strip **129**, and the opposite end of central section **33** by a similar stitch line **130** (FIGURE 17). If desired, and at the same time, stitch lines could also capture the opposite sides of a bottom finishing panel **130**, shown in FIGURES 5 and 6.

FIGURES 18 to 22 show a modified version of the novel bag of the invention, including a novel arrangement of garment securing members, such as straps, for securing elongated garments, such as dresses or coats, or the like, within the central compartment of the bag.

In FIGURES 18 to 22, the bag is formed of two main halves **200** and **201** which are closed by a central zipper **202** much in the manner shown for the bag of the preceding FIGURES 1 to 17. Each of the halves **200** and **201** are provided with two side chambers, the side chamber in half **201** being reached through flap **203**, shown in FIGURE 18. The entire bag is then supported by means of four spaced wires **204**, **205**, **206** and **207** again in a manner substantially identical to that shown in the preceding figures.

The bag differs from that of the preceding figures in that the carrying handles **208** and **209** are secured directly to reinforcing rods **205** and **206**, respectively, at what was the bottom of the bag of the preceding figures. The bottom of the bag of FIGURES 18 to 22 is then formed in a manner similar to the top of the bag of the preceding figures except, of course, a carrying handle is not secured to the bottom although legs (not shown) are formed in the bottom of the gussets defining the two side pockets.

In accordance with an important feature of the invention, garment support means including strap pairs **210–211**, **212–213**, and **214–215** having cooperating buckles thereon are sewn to the bag sides adjacent inner panels **216** and **217** (FIGURE 19), which correspond to panels **37** and **38** of the preceding figures and cooperate to form the central chamber of the bag of FIGURES 18 to 22. Straps **212** and **213** are connected to a liner **218** which extends across the pivotal connection between bag halves **200** and **201**. All of the straps extend in the direction parallel to the axis of rotation of halves **200** and **201** around their pivotal connection, with straps **210** and **211** connected adjacent the top of bag half **200**, while straps **214** and **215** are similarly at the top of the bag half **201**.

It will be apparent that the straps **210** to **215** could be replaced by any suitable garment support means, such as rigid rods, elastic bands, or the like, and that a pair of cooperating buckled straps are shown heerin for illustrative purposes only.

The novel arrangement of straps is then used as shown in FIGURES 20 to 22 where it will be seen that the bag halves themselves are used as an integral portion of the garment folding arrangement. Thus, as shown in FIGURE 2, a garment, such as dress **230**, is laid across panels **216** and **217**, with its ends overlapping the tops of the panels and the straps **210** and **215** are buckled as shown. Thereafter, and as shown in FIGURE 21, the overlapping ends of the dress are folded around straps **210–211** and **214–215**, respectively. The bag is then rotated closed, as indicated in FIGURE 22, with the dress automatically folded at its middle with the bag closure serving as a means for defining a fold at the center of the dress. Straps **212** and **213** may be used to further insure the proper folding of the dress at its center.

This novel arrangement provides an elongated garment fold to form the garment into four stacked layers, with the garment bent at three points. This permits an extremely neat and compact arrangement for garments, such as dresses, with any desired number of dresses being contained in the central cavity of the bag, depending upon the depth of panels **216** and **217**.

The novel strap arrangement of FIGURES 18 to 22 could be applied to any desired bag and could be used to

form a dress carrier per se, as shown in FIGURE 23. Referring to FIGURE 23, there is illustrated a bag comprised of two halves **240** and **241** having a zipper closure **242**, with the two bag halves joined to one another at a pivotal connection covered by liner **218**. The remaining components of the closure are identical to those of FIGURES 18 to 22 and have identical identifying numerals whereby dresses, or the like, can be stored in the bag of FIGURE 23, as shown in FIGURES 20 to 22. Again, it will be noted that the straps **210** to **215** of FIGURE 23 could be replaced by any suitable garment securing means such as elastic straps, rods, or the like.

Although this invention has been described with respect to its preferred embodiments, it should be understood that many variations and modifications will now be obvious to those skilled in the art, and it is preferred, therefore, that the scope of the invention be limited not by the specific disclosure herein, but only by the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive privilege or property is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A carrying bag comprising a central chamber and first and second side chambers on opposite sides of said central chamber; said central chamber having a tubular outer peripheral wall of flexible material having first and second interior panels extending across and secured to respective first and second opposite ends of said peripheral wall; first access opening means extending along said outer peripheral wall to permit access to the interior of said central chamber; and first closure means for said first access opening means; a first and second elongated rigid reinforcing members bent to shapes conforming to the shape of said first and second opposite ends of said peripheral wall, and first and second gussets of flexible material; one end of said first gusset and said first rigid reinforcing member connected to one another and to said first end of said peripheral wall; one end of said second gusset and said second reinforcing member connected to one another and to said second end of said peripheral wall; and first and second exterior panels of flexible material; and third and fourth elongated rigid reinforcing members bent to shapes conforming to the periphery of said first and second exterior panels; said third reinforcing member and the periphery of said first exterior panel connected to one another and to the opposite end of said first gusset; said fourth reinforcing member connected to the periphery of said second exterior panel and to the opposite end of said second gusset; and second and third access means in said first and second exterior panels; said first interior panel, said first exterior panel and said first gusset defining said first side chamber; said second interior panel, said second exterior panel and said second gusset defining said second side chamber.

2. The bag of claim **1** wherein said second and third access means in said first and second exterior panels comprise U-shaped flaps with respective zipper closure means.

3. The bag of claim **1** which includes a rigid reinforcement strip secured to a first length of said peripheral wall; and a carrying handle secured to said first reinforcement strip.

4. The bag of claim **1** which includes a rigid reinforcement strip secured to a first length of said peripheral wall; and a carrying handle secured to said first reinforcement strip; second and third rigid reinforcement strips connected to said first and second gussets, respectively, and support legs connected to said second and third rigid strips; said second and third rigid strips disposed on the bottom of said bag; said first rigid strip exposed on the top of said bag; said first access opening means extending around said bag between said second and third strips and terminating at the ends of said first strip.

5. The bag of claim **1** in which said first, second, third and fourth elongated reinforcing members are identical to one another.

6. The bag of claim **5** which includes a plastic sheath having an extending sewing flange surrounding said reinforcing members.

7. The bag of claim **6** in which said connections between said peripheral wall, said interior and exterior panels, said reinforcing members and said gussets are sewn joints having threads extending through said sewing flanges of said reinforcing members.

8. The bag of claim **1** in which said first access opening means extends around a first and major length of said peripheral wall to permit said central chamber to be fully opened with said first and second interior panels rotated by 180° with respect to one another around a pivotal connection formed by the remaining length of said peripheral wall; first and second garment securement means; said first and second garment securing means extending parallel to the axis of rotation of said interior panels and extending across the full width of said first and second interior panels, respectively, and positioned at the opposite ends of said first and second interior panels when said panels are fully opened with respect to one another.

9. The bag of claim **8** which includes a third garment securing means parallel to said first and second garment securement means and positioned across said pivotal connection between said first and second interior panels.

10. A carrying bag comprising a first bag half, a second bag half, pivotal connection means for connecting said first and second bag halves to one another along a first portion of their outer periphery and closure means for closing said bag; first and second garment securing means disposed parallel to the axis of rotation of said first and second bag halves about said pivotal connection and each connected to the opposite interior sides of said first and second bag halves respectively adjacent ends thereof which are furthest removed from said pivotal connection and each of said securing means being closer to the end of its bag half end which is opposed to said first portion than to said first portion.

11. The bag of claim **10** which includes a third garment securing means extending along and adjacent said pivotal connection.

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