

Feb. 7, 1939.

H. SILVERMAN

2,146,384

WARDROBE SUITCASE

Filed May 29, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

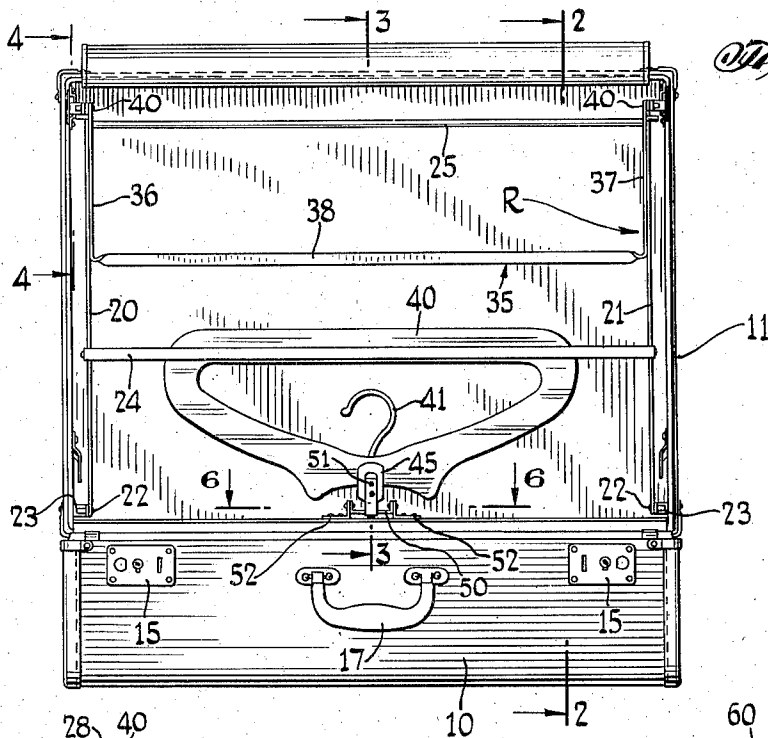


Fig. 1.

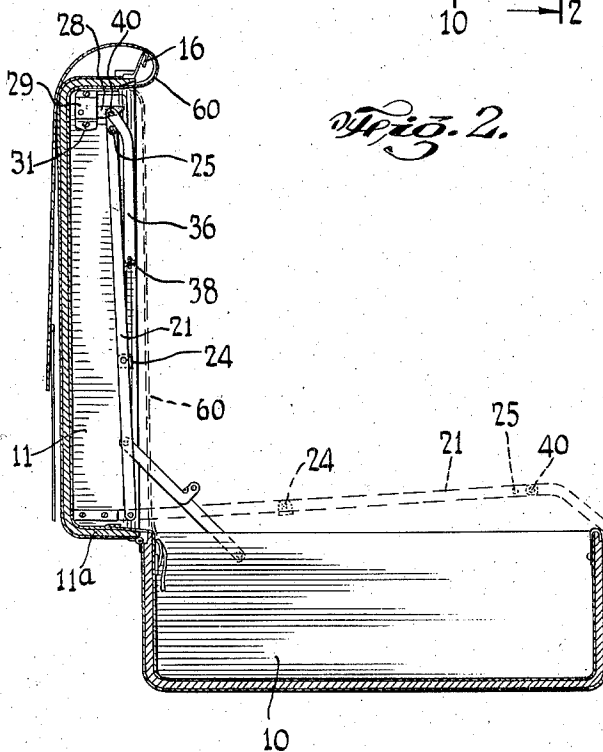


Fig. 2.

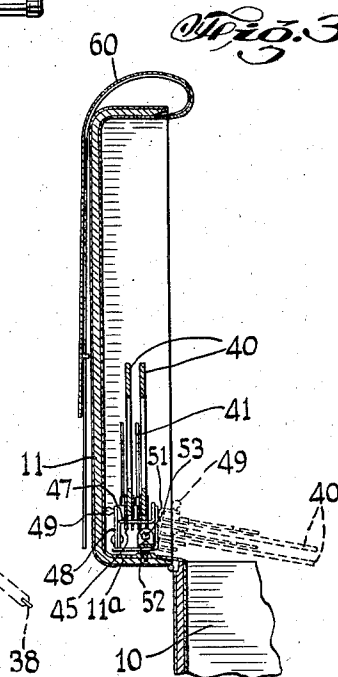


Fig. 3.

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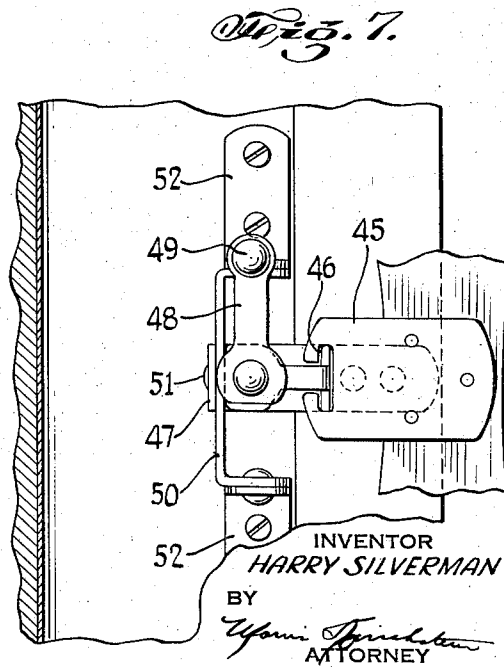
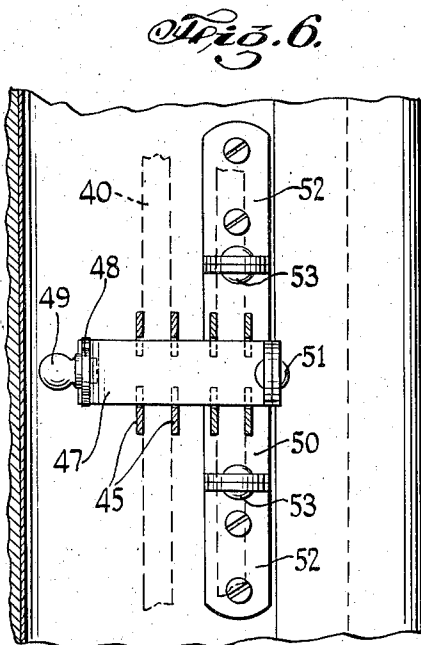
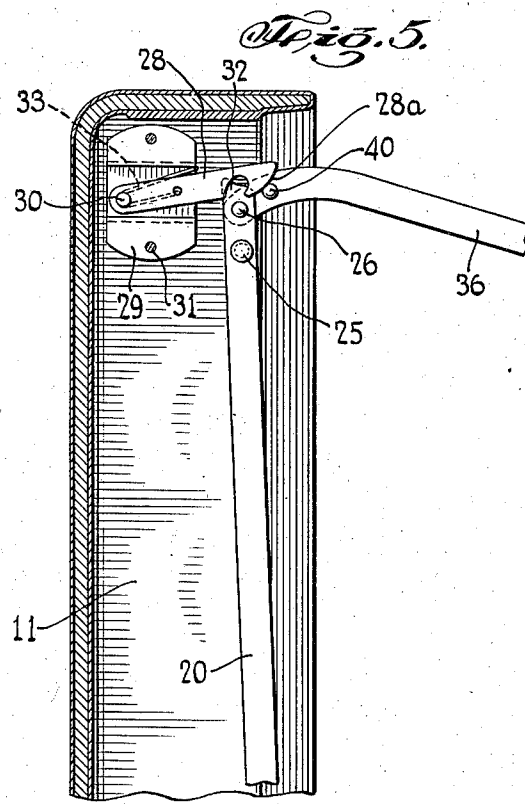
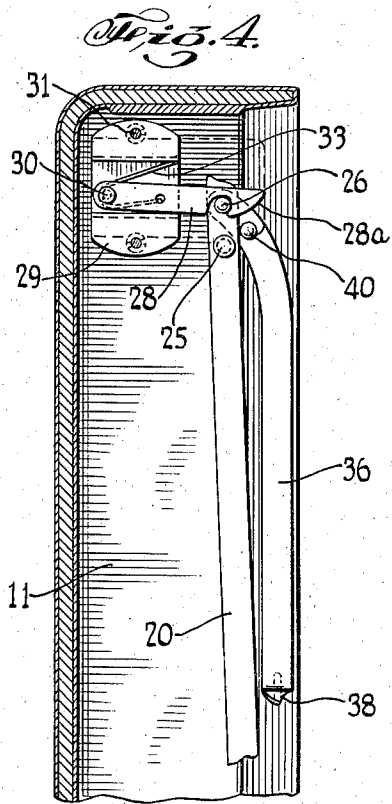
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WARDROBE SUITCASE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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WARDROBE SUITCASE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

This invention relates to wardrobe suitcases. More particularly, it relates to the type of traveling suitcase, in which means are provided for hanging clothes in a folded condition, in such manner as to prevent wrinkles caused by shifting and rumpling.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide, in a traveling suitcase of the character described, an improved garment supporting rack having a novel latch mechanism whereby the said rack may be quickly released for the purpose of positioning a garment thereon or for the removal of a garment therefrom.

Another object of my invention is to provide a traveling case of the character described, having highly improved garment supporting equipment of rugged construction; which shall comprise relatively few and simple parts; which shall be relatively inexpensive to manufacture; which shall be easy to operate, and which at the same time shall be highly efficient for the purposes intended.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and of which the scope of application will be indicated in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawings, in which is shown one of the various possible illustrative embodiments of this invention,

Fig. 1 is a front elevational, assembly view of a wardrobe suitcase in opened position, and embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, but omitting a portion of the garment supporting rack mechanism shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail section taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, illustrating a portion of the garment supporting rack in latched position;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but illustrating the manner of unlatching the garment supporting rack;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail section taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6 but illustrating the arrangement of the device after a portion of it has been rotated approximately 90°.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, there is disclosed a wardrobe suitcase comprising a

bottom section 10 and a cover section 11. The sections 10 and 11 are hingedly connected together, at one end, in the customary manner, and provided at the other end with suitable locking members 15, 16 of any suitable design well known in the art, and having a handle 17 of usual construction.

My improved garment supporting rack R is preferably mounted within the cover section 11 and comprises a pair of side members 20 and 21 which are pivotally fastened to the opposite side walls of the cover 11 by means of pivots 22 supported in brackets 23, which in turn are rigidly attached to the said side walls. Interconnecting brace members 24 and 25 may be employed to reinforce the side members 20 and 21.

To retain the above described garment supporting rack R in its effective position, that is, within the cover 11, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, I provide a projecting pin 26 mounted on each of the side members 20 and 21. The pins 26 are designed to cooperate with latch devices 28, which are pivotally mounted on the pivots 30, which in turn are supported in the brackets 29. The brackets 29 may be fixedly attached to the side walls of the cover 11 by any suitable attaching means such as screws 31. Each latch 28 is provided with a specially designed notched portion 32, which is adapted to receive and hold the pins 26 therein, in order to insure the garment supporting rack R against pivotally swinging out of its proper position, when the cover 11 is closed or when the case is tilted and thus prevent wrinkling of the clothes on the rack. A spring 33 is employed to normally cause the latch 28 to pivot in a downward direction, with respect to Figs. 2 and 4 of the drawings to render the locking device effective.

To facilitate the proper positioning of a garment on the rack R, I have provided a U-shaped auxiliary frame 35, comprising side members 36, 37 and an interconnecting horizontal bar 38. The said side members 36 and 37, are pivotally connected to the side members 20 and 21, respectively, by means of pivots 40, whose axes may be in alignment with the axes of the projecting pins 26. If desired, the pivots 40 may be integral with the pins 26. The bar 38 is adapted to serve as a handle to facilitate the rotation of the auxiliary frame about its pivotal axis. I have provided improved means associated with the auxiliary frame 35 for the purpose of easily and quickly releasing the side members 20 and 21 from the latches 28 in order to be able to swing the garment rack R to an open position as shown in

dotted lines in Fig. 2 of the drawings. My improved construction comprises outwardly projecting pins 40 mounted on the auxiliary frame side members 36 and 37. These pins 40 are so disposed that when the auxiliary frame 35 is pivotally moved upwardly to a position as illustrated in Fig. 5, by means of the bar 38, they will contact the cammed ends 28a of the latches 28, to pivotally raise said latches 28 against the action of the springs 33 and thus free the pins 26 from the notches 32. The garment carrying equipment R, now released, may be pivotally swung to a position, as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 2 of the drawings, which is the effective position for arranging a garment on the rack R or for removing a garment therefrom.

In order to further prevent garments such as suits and coats from becoming wrinkled while properly arranged on the above described garment rack R, there is provided one or more clothes hangers 40 of customary design which may be provided with pivotally mounted hooks 41, whereby the said hangers 40, having clothes thereon, may be removed from the case and hung up in a closet in the usual way. A pair of projecting plates 45, disposed on opposite sides of the hangers 40, are provided for holding the said hangers in proper position within the wardrobe case. Each of the plates 45 is provided with aligned notches 46 at the ends thereof, which are adapted to receive therein one leg of an angular plate 47. The hangers 40 are retained on the plate 47 by any suitable locking means, such as for example, a pivotally mounted cam arm 48 provided with a knob 49 at one end thereof in order to facilitate the movement thereof. In Fig. 7 the locking arm 48 is shown in ineffective position to permit the positioning of the hangers 40 on the plate 47, while in Fig. 6, the locking arm 48 is shown in operative position. The angular plate 47 is preferably rigidly mounted on a member 50 by any suitable means, such as a rivet 51. The member 50 is, in turn, rotatably mounted on a pair of brackets 52 by means of pivots 53, the said brackets being rigidly attached to a bottom wall 11a of the cover 11.

The operation and use of my invention may be described as follows:

The garment rack equipment R as described in detail above, is first released from its latched position, by raising the handle 38 of the auxiliary frame in the manner hereinbefore described, and the rack R caused to assume the dotted line position shown in Fig. 2. A suit or similar garment properly hung on a hanger 40, and having the hook 41 thereof swung into an inoperative position as shown in Fig. 1, is then mounted on the plate 47 as shown in Fig. 7, after which it is locked in position by means of the arm 48, as shown in Fig. 6. The portions of the suit extending from the hanger 40, are then draped over the rods 25 and 24 of the garment rack R and over the bar 38 of the auxiliary frame 35, if desired. The rack R carrying the suit is then

swung into position within the cover 11, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 and locked in said position by the latch 28. Due to the fact that the clothes hanger 40 is pivotally mounted as hereinbefore described, the hangers 40 and the suit thereon will freely move with the movement of the garment rack R, from the dotted line position to the full line position as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. A fabric protective covering 60 of customary design may also be employed, if desired, to further protect the suit against dust or against contact with articles contained in the bottom section 10.

It will thus be seen that there is provided a device in which the several objects of this invention are achieved, and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiments set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein contained, or shown in the accompanying drawings, is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. For use in a suitcase, in combination, a pivotally mounted main garment supporting frame, an auxiliary frame pivotally mounted on said main frame, a latch device comprising a pair of flat rod members, each of said rod members having one end thereof mounted on a pivot, notches adjacent the other ends of said rod members, a portion of the main frame received in said notches to lock said main frame in position, a spring for urging each of said rod members to rotate about its pivot to hold said main frame in such locked position, and means on said auxiliary frame to rotate said rod members for automatically releasing said main frame portion from within the said notches upon pivotal movement of said auxiliary frame against the action of said springs.

2. For use in a suitcase, in combination, a pivotally mounted main garment supporting frame, an auxiliary frame pivotally mounted on said main frame, a latch device comprising a pair of flat rod members, each of said rod members having one end thereof mounted on a pivot, notches adjacent the other ends of said rod members, a portion of the main frame received in said notches to lock said main frame in such locked position, a spring for urging each of said rod members to rotate about its pivot to hold said main frame in such locked position, and means on said auxiliary frame for automatically releasing said main frame portion from within the said notches upon pivotal movement of said auxiliary frame, said last named means comprising projections on said auxiliary frame adapted to contactively engage said rod members for causing movement of said rod members about their pivots against the action of said springs.

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