Sept. 5, 1967 C. EDMISSON 3,339,938

PORTABLE CONTAINER FOR TOOLS

Filed Dec. 23, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 2.

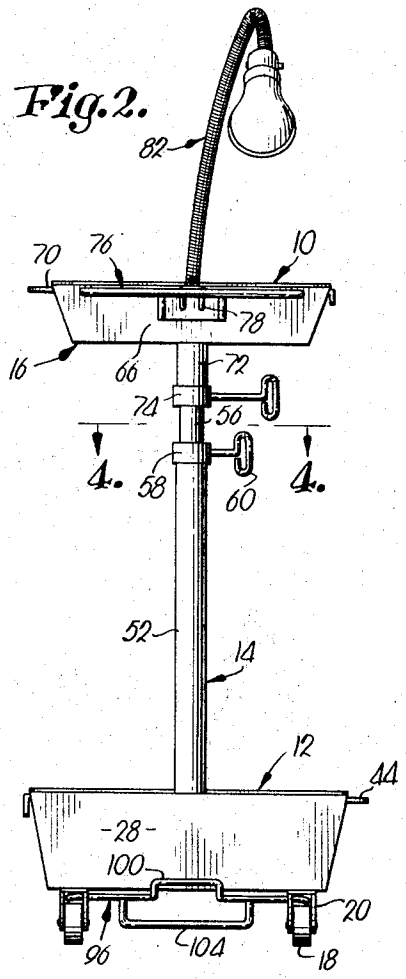
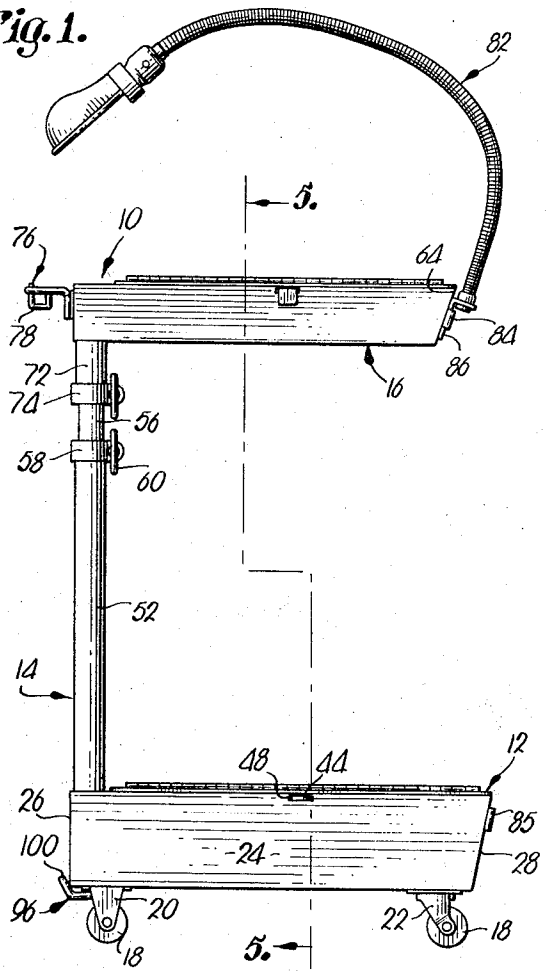


Fig. 1.



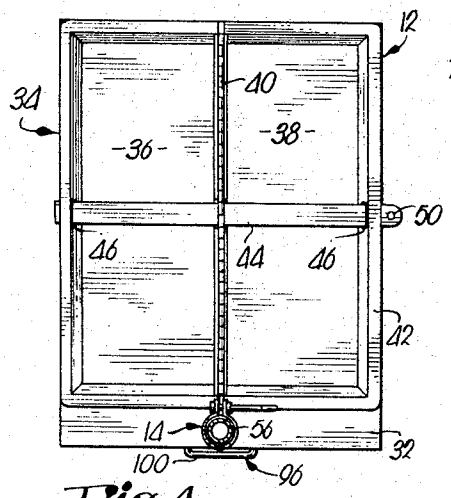


Fig. 4.

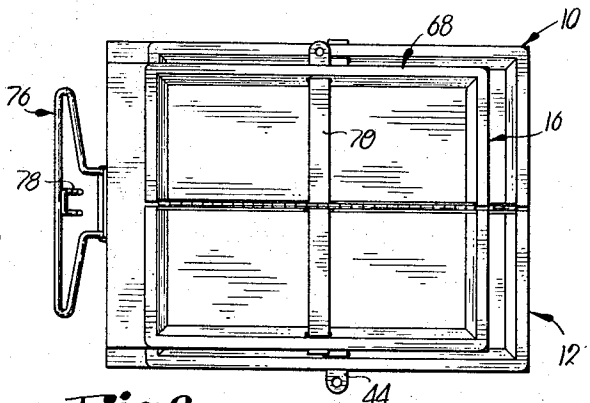


Fig. 3.

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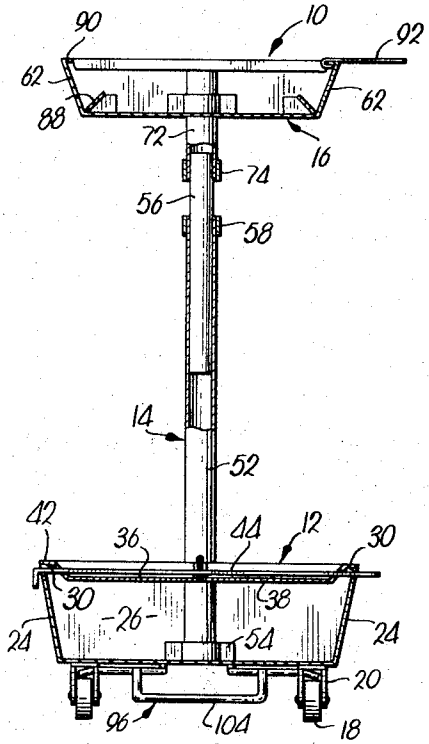

Fig.5.

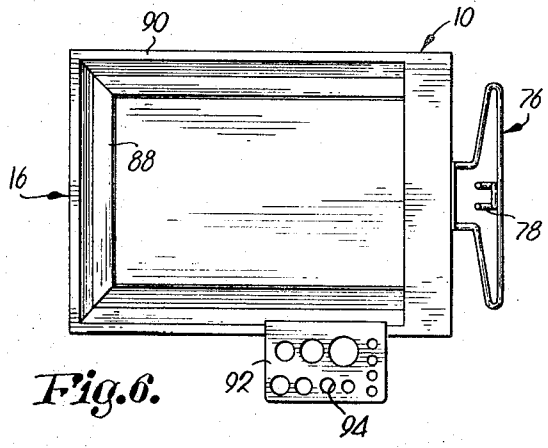

Fig.6.

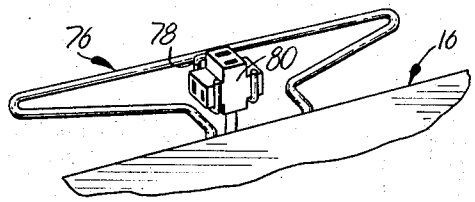

Fig.7.

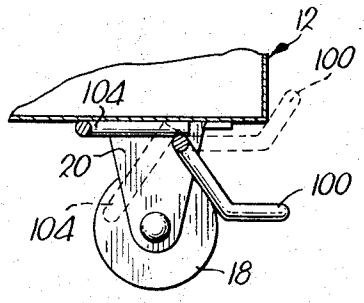

Fig.8.

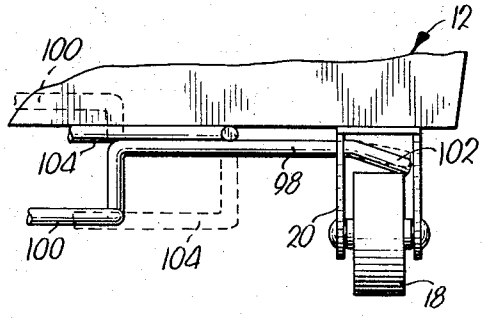

Fig.9.

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3,339,938

PORTABLE CONTAINER FOR TOOLS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 280—79.3)

This invention relates to tool boxes, and more particularly, to a portable container for maintaining tools conveniently available for use by a mechanic when working at locations remote from his workbench.

Heretofore available tool boxes have been deficient in that they have been of such construction that a mechanic has generally been unable, particularly when working in relatively inaccessible locations such as automobile engine compartments, to have his tools conveniently at hand. It is often necessary for a mechanic to assume a number of awkward body positions while working on an automobile. If the mechanic must leave his place of work to obtain additional and different tools for his work, much of his valuable time is thereby wasted and his efficiency is diminished.

Accordingly, it is the primary object of this invention to provide a tool box of novel construction for holding the tools of a mechanic in ready proximity to his work in hard-to-reach locations.

Another object of the invention and attainable in the achievement of the foregoing object is to provide a self-supporting tool box configured to hold tools or the like immediately adjacent the open engine compartment of an automobile.

Another object of this invention is to provide a tool container which serves as a portable workbench and may be wheeled into close proximity to the area in which a mechanic is actually engaged in his work.

Another object of the invention is to provide a tool box that is adjustable to provide for each manual shifting of the component parts to accommodate various sized vehicles and to permit use of the tool box in connection with work in a variety of locations.

Still a further object of this invention is to provide a tool container which may be readily wheeled from one location to another and which is therefore well suited for use by workmen on mass production assembly lines or similar installations where the workmen may be required to move from place-to-place.

A further object of this invention is to provide in such a tool box novel partition means for holding small items such as sockets or the like in easily accessible locations within the box yet permitting ready removal of the items therefrom.

Yet another highly important object of this invention is the provision, in a single, portable unit, of a tool box having substantially all of the items usually needed by a mechanic disposed at a single, easily accessible location.

Still another object of the invention is to provide such a unit wherein the tool retaining compartments may be securely locked to prevent pilfering when the tools are not in use, yet which may be quickly and easily opened to provide access to the tools when needed.

These and other important objects of this invention will be more fully explained or become apparent in the following specification and appended claims.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a tool container embodying the principles of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the tool container;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view thereof, the light having been removed for clarity;

FIG. 4 is a view along line 4—4 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is a vertical, cross-sectional view taken along irregular line 5—5 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a top plan view of the tool container with the lid and light removed and showing a tool holder installed on the upper edge of the tool chest;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged, fragmentary, perspective view of the handle showing an extension cord terminal positioned in the cord bracket;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged, fragmentary, vertical cross-sectional view taken through the tool box and brake, the roller and portions of the brake appearing in elevation with the unlocked position of the brake appearing in dashed lines; and

FIG. 9 is an enlarged, fragmentary, front elevational view of the container showing the brake in its locked position, the unlocked position thereof appearing in dashed lines.

A portable tool container embodying the principles of this invention is broadly designated **10** in the drawings and includes a mobile base in the form of a tool box **12** having an upright **14** rigidly mounted proximal one end of box **12** and extending vertically upwardly therefrom and an elongated, horizontally disposed tray in the nature of a tool chest **16** mounted proximal one end of the latter to the upper end of upright **14**. Wheel means such as rollers **18** are mounted to the bottom surface of box **12** by a pair of stationary brackets **20** and a pair of rotatable brackets **22** for supporting container **10** yet permitting the rolling of the latter to any desired location.

Box **12** includes a pair of opposed, upwardly extending, outwardly flared side walls **24**, a vertical rear wall **26** and an outwardly flared front wall **28**. The upper marginal edges of walls **24** terminate in integral, horizontally disposed, inwardly extending flanges **30** while a similar flange (not shown) extends inwardly from front wall **28**. A substantially wider flange **32** extends inwardly from rear wall **26** as shown best in FIG. 4.

The normally open top of box **12** is closed by a lid **34** comprised of a pair of sections **36** and **38** hinged together along the longitudinal axis of box **12** by an elongated hinge **40**. Lid **34** is provided with a peripherally extending upwardly and outwardly disposed flange **42** as shown best in FIGS. 4 and 5. Flange **42** overlies the peripherally extending flanges of the side walls **24** and front wall **28** as well as the inner margin of flange **32** for maintaining lid **34** in closing relationship on box **12**. It will be noted particularly in FIGS. 4 and 5 that the sections **36** and **38** are recessed to provide a retainer for tools, small parts or the like which may be placed on lid **34**. An elongated L-shaped bar **44** is received through aligned openings **46** in flange **42** and openings **48** in side walls **24** to provide locking means for tool box **12**. To this end, the outer projecting end of bar **44** is provided with a hole **50** extending transversely therethrough and adapted to receive a padlock or the like for retaining bar **44** in place.

Upright **14** includes an elongated, transversely circular tube **52** extending through flange **32** and rigidly secured to wall **26** of box **12** by means such as a bracket **54** as shown in FIG. 5. Tube **52** extends vertically upwardly from box **12** proximal one end of the latter and the upper end of tube **52** is telescoped over one end of a transversely circular, elongated shaft **56** as shown in FIG. 5. An annular clamp **58** circumscribing tube **52** proximal the upper end of the latter and provided with a thumb screw **60** provides means for clamping shaft **56** in predetermined relative positional relationship with respect to tube **52**.

Tool chest **16** also includes a pair of opposed, generally upright, outwardly flared side walls **62**, a front wall **64** and a vertical rear wall **66**. A lid **68** which may be substantially identical to lid **34** of tool box **12** and of suitable dimensions to accommodate the chest **16** normally closes the latter and is provided with an L-shaped bar **70** for

locking chest **16** in the same manner as explained with respect to bar **44** and tool box **12**.

A tube **72** is rigidly secured to rear wall **66** of chest **16** and extends vertically downward through the bottom of the latter proximal one end of the chest **16**. The transversely circular tube **72** is telescoped over the upper end of shaft **56** and is clamped to the latter by a clamp **74** which may be identical with clamp **56**. It may thus be seen that the tool chest **16** may be raised or lowered with respect to tool box **12** and may also be swung through an arc about the longitudinal axis of upright **14** if desired.

A handle, broadly designated **76**, is rigidly secured to the outer surface of wall **66** and mounts a bracket **78** for receiving the irregular terminal **80** of an extension cord as shown best in FIG. 7. Handle **76** is provided to facilitate movement of container **10** on rollers **18** while the bracket **78** affords ready access to terminal **80** wherein a mechanic may have a source of electrical energy readily available. Provision is made to mount a light **82** on container **10** by means of a U-shaped bracket **84** rigidly secured to the outer surface of the front wall **64** of chest **16** and a similar bracket **85** secured to the front wall **28** of tool box **12** as shown in FIG. 1. An L-shaped support rigidly secured lamp **82** has one leg thereof inserted in bracket **84** for releasably securing the light **82** to container **12**. It will be appreciated that support **86** can be inserted in either of the brackets **84** or **85** for disposing light **82** at the most convenient location consistent with the area desired to be illuminated.

Partition means in the nature of an elongated flange **88** in chest **16** is disposed with one longitudinal edge thereof abutting the inner surfaces of the walls of container **16** and projecting inwardly to define an acute angle between the proximal wall and flange **88** as shown best in FIGS. 5 and 6. Flange **88** extends around three sides of the interior of chest **16** to provide a support for small items such as sockets so that the sockets are individually readily accessible and may be removed quickly and easily from the upper surface of flange **88** as will be understood. The inclination of flange **88** enhances the removability of the sockets by virtue of the disposition of the latter on flange **88** with the open ends of the sockets in position to be readily grasped by the fingers.

Side walls **62** and end wall **64** of chest **16** are provided with inturned flanges **90** in the same manner as the flanges on walls **24** and **28** of tool chest **12** and serve to provide a support for a substantially flat tool holder **92** shown best in FIGS. 5 and 6. One marginal edge of holder **92** is bent back upon the latter to provide a groove which complementally receives the flanges on the walls of chest **16** and box **12** to support holder **92** in substantially horizontally extending disposition outwardly from the outer peripheral margins thereof wherein small tools such as screw drivers and the like can be conveniently held by insertion in holes **94** extending through holder **92** as shown in FIG. 6. Holder **92** is readily removable from its position mounted on the flanges of chest **16** or box **12** and can be stored in chest **16** until needed.

Means is provided for releasably securing container **10** in a desired position and includes a brake **96** comprised of an elongated rod **98** extending through openings (not shown) in the inner leg of each of the stationary roller brackets **20** and bent as illustrated to present a foot pedal **100** projecting to the rear of container **10** in disposition to be engaged by the toe when it is desired to operate brake **96**. The outer ends **102** of rod **98** are bent so that the latter engage the outer surface of the proximal rollers **18** when brake **96** is in the full line position thereof illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 9 with pedal **100** disposed downwardly and away from the proximal edge of tool box **12**. A counter weight **104** in the nature of a rod or the like is welded to rod **98** in offset relationship from pedal **100** and serves to normally hold brake **96** in the dotted line position thereof illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 9. Counterweight **104** may be bent to provide a stop for limiting the swinging movement of brake **96** when pedal **100** is depressed to prevent damage to rollers **18** or bending or rod **98**.

In operation container **10** is conveniently rolled to a desired position adjacent the side of an automobile where it can be locked in place merely by depressing pedal **100** to overcome the weight of counterweight **104**. The frictional engagement of ends **102** of rod **98** on the outer surfaces of rollers **18** prevents counterweight **104** from rotating the brake to its normally inoperated position and frictionally lock rollers **18** against movement. The tool chest **18** is elevated and swung to any desired position, even to a position overlying the open engine compartment of an automobile. The tools necessary for work by the mechanic in the engine compartment may be stored either within tool chest **16** or temporarily placed on lid **68** so that the operator has the necessary tools conveniently available. When it is required that tools be obtained from within chest **16**, it is a simple matter to swing one side or the other of lid **68** about the hinge to remove the tools from chest **16**.

If desired, the tools most likely to be needed may be held by holder **92** which is easily slipped over the flanges of the side walls of chest **16**. Lamp **82** installed on bracket **84** is available for illuminating the engine compartment and may be plugged into terminal **80** held by bracket **78**.

If the mechanic is working beneath the car or at some other elevation substantially lower than chest **16**, light **82** may, of course, be inserted in bracket **85** on box **12** for illuminating such work.

It is contemplated that, if desired, some suitable seat could be supported by tool container **10** to provide a convenient support for the mechanic while performing work which does not require him to stand.

Although container **10** has been described particularly for use by a mechanic in connection with work in the open engine compartment of an automobile, it will be readily understood that the use of container **10** is by no means restricted to such operations and can be advantageously used in a wide variety of applications.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A portable container for tools suitable for use in the open engine compartment of an automobile, comprising:

a wheeled base including a tool box and a vertically disposed tube secured to the box proximal one end of the latter and extending upwardly therefrom;

a horizontally disposed tool chest including a vertically disposed tube secured to the chest proximal one end of the latter and depending therefrom;

a shaft interposed between said tubes, one end of the shaft being in telescoped relationship with the tube secured to the tool box, the other end of the shaft being in telescoped relationship with the tube secured to the tool chest whereby to position said box and said chest in vertically spaced horizontal planes, said tubes each being independently rotatable with respect to said shaft; and

clamp means on each tube for releasably clamping the respective tubes in any predetermined, rotated position with respect to the shaft whereby the chest and the box may be independently swung to any relative positions in their respective horizontal planes within a complete circle about said shaft.

2. A portable container for tools suitable for use in the open engine compartment of automobiles comprising:

an elongated, mobile base including a tool box having a swingable lid, wheel means secured to the box for supporting the latter, and a vertically disposed, transversely circular tube rigidly secured to the base proximal one end of the latter and extending upwardly therefrom;

an elongated, horizontally disposed tray comprising an open top chest having at least one generally upright

side wall, a partition in the chest including an elongated flange having a longitudinal edge abutting the inner surface of the wall with the flange extending outwardly from said surface to define an acute angle between the flange and said wall, and an elongated, transversely circular, vertically disposed tube rigidly secured to the tray and depending therefrom;

an elongated, transversely circular member having one end complementally received in telescoped relationship within the tube secured to the tray and the other end thereof complementally received in telescoped relationship in the tube secured to the base for supporting the tray in vertically spaced relationship with respect to the base, the shaft being normally free to slip within said tubes to permit manually shifting of the tray with respect to the base; and

clamp means on each tube respectively for releasably clamping the tubes in any predetermined position with respect to the shaft for holding the tray in any selected position thereof with respect to the base.

3. A container as set forth in claim 2 wherein is included a brake carried by the base and disposed to operably engage said wheel means for releasably locking said wheels against turning for preventing inadvertent movement of the container.

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