Dec. 12, 1950 A. P. KITSON 2,533,333

COLLAPSIBLE AND PORTABLE WARDROBE HAVING FLEXIBLE WALLS AND SHELVES

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Fig. 1

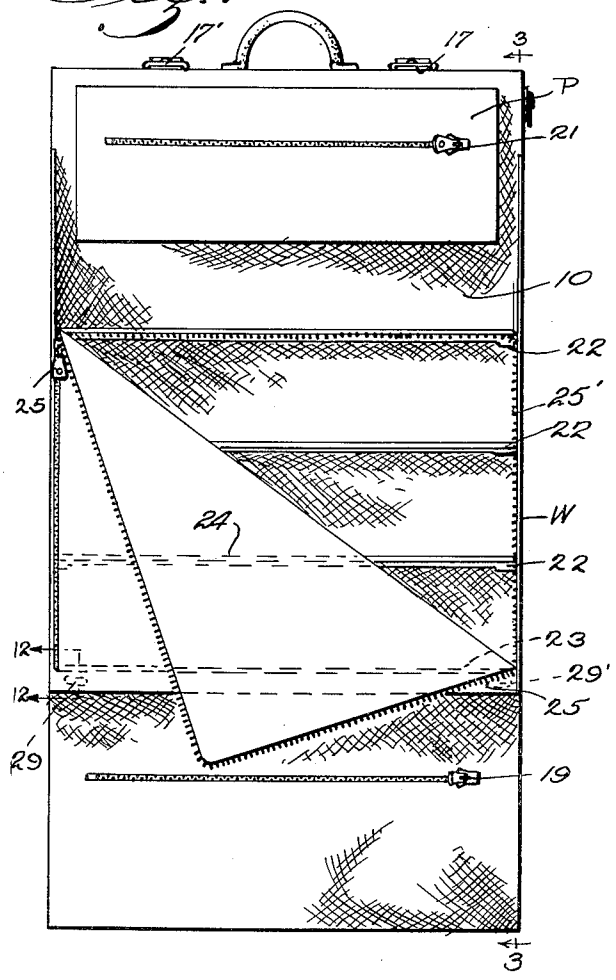


Fig. 2

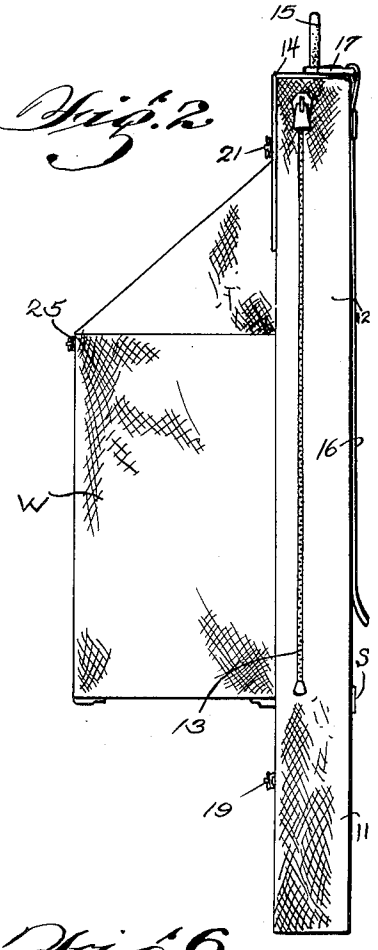


Fig. 6

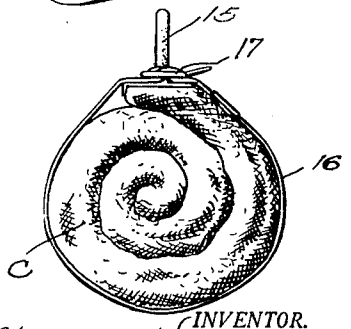
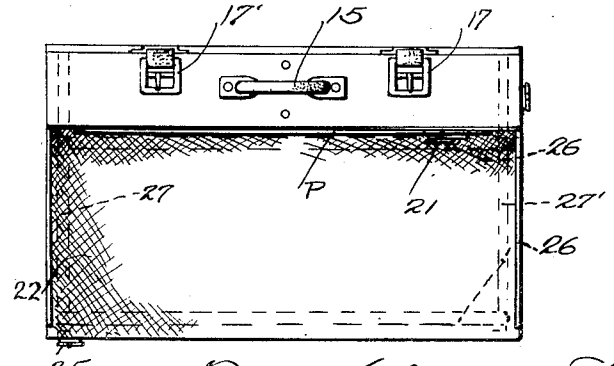


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

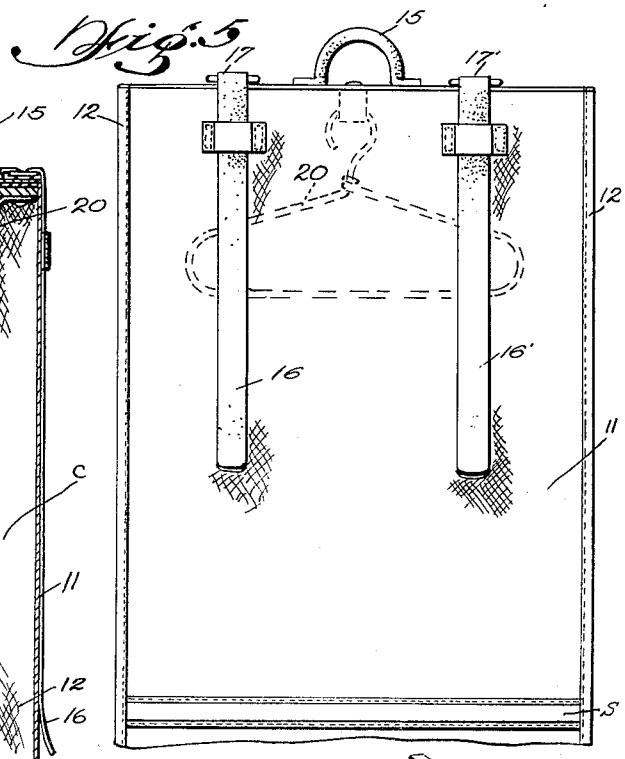
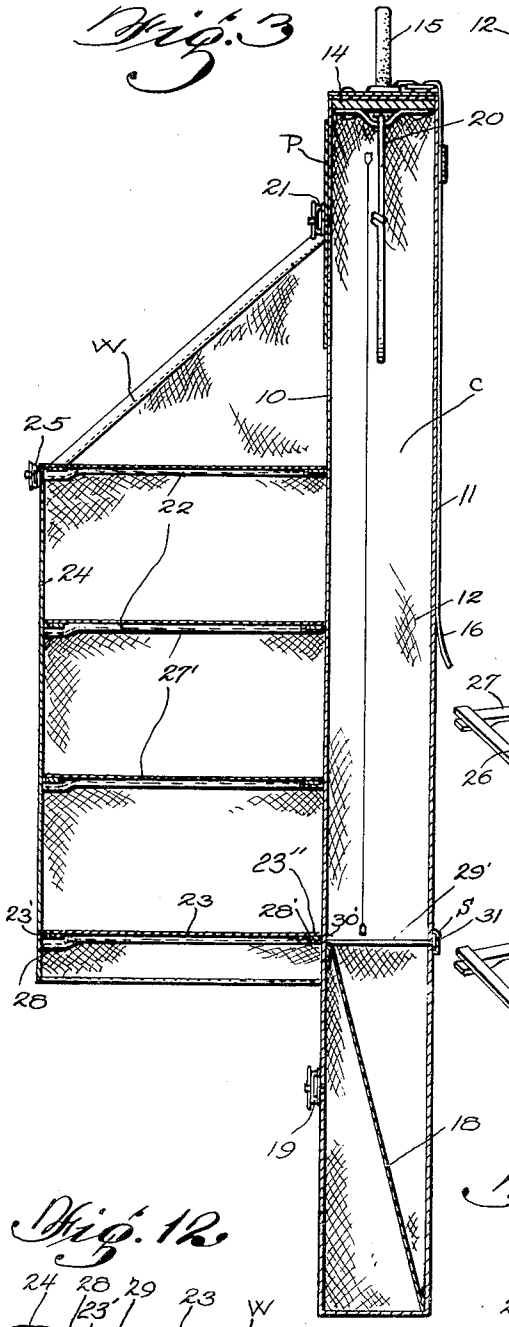


Fig. 3



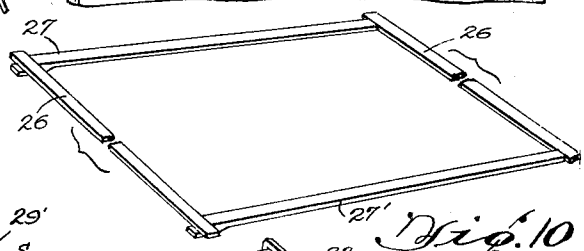


Fig. 10

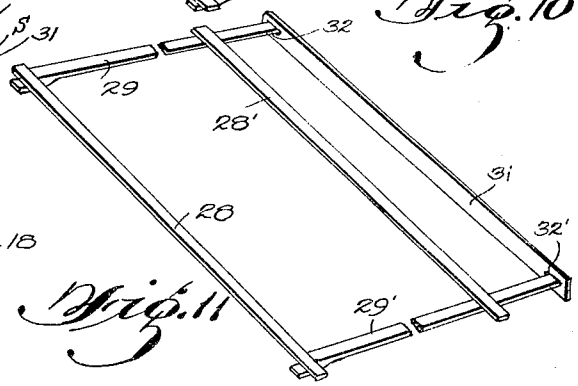
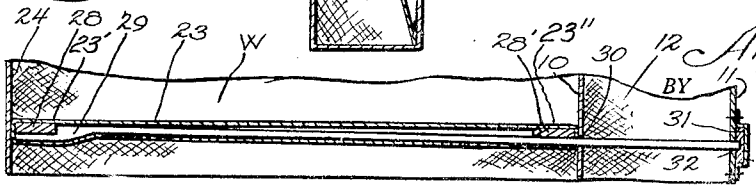


Fig. 11

Fig. 12.



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Fig. 7

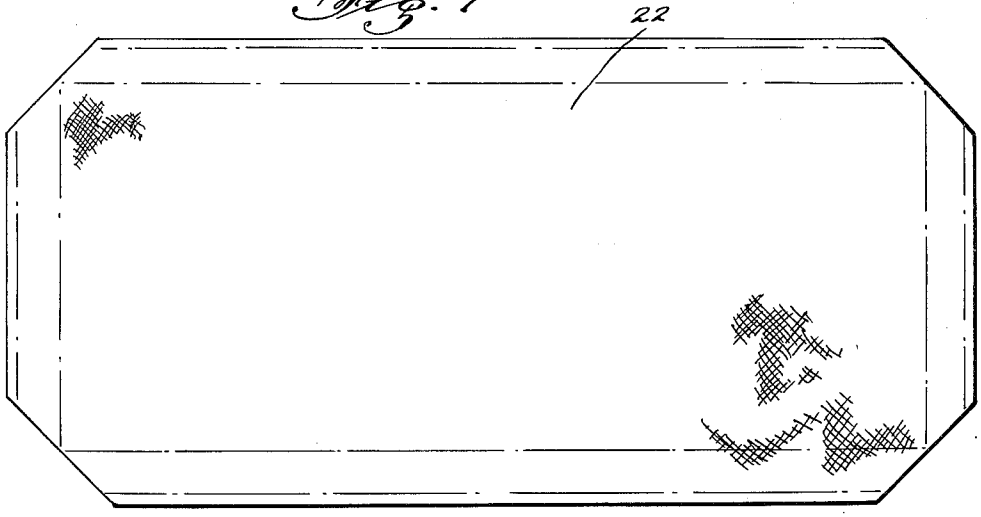
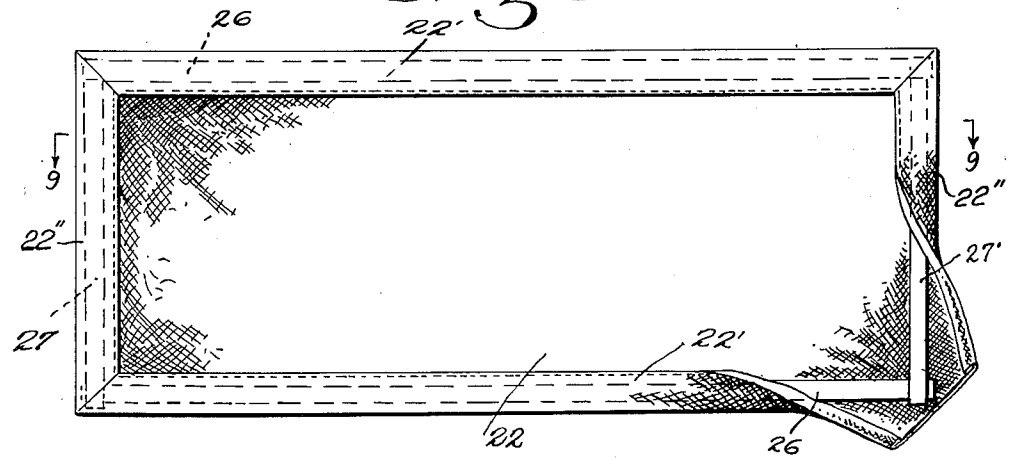


Fig. 8



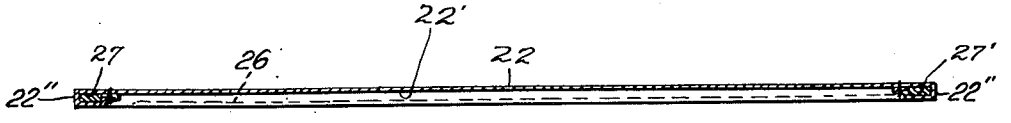


Fig. 9

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,533,333

COLLAPSIBLE AND PORTABLE WARDROBE HAVING FLEXIBLE WALLS AND SHELVES

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Application February 19, 1947, Serial No. 729,643

3 Claims. (Cl. 190—43)

(Granted under the act of March 3, 1883, as amended April 30, 1928; 370 O. G. 757)

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The invention described herein, if patented, may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes without the payment to me of any royalty thereon.

This invention relates to a portable wardrobe, and more particularly to a wardrobe of flexible material, capable of being rolled compactly and of being set up to provide shelves and clothes-storage space.

In the field, in the course of expeditions or on similar occasions, when camp is made and broken at short intervals, it is desirable to have the use of a wardrobe capable of storing conventional articles of apparel and other personal belongings. A conventional wardrobe does not lend itself to that purpose, as it is heavy, bulky, and liable to break during transport. Luggage of the foldable garment-case or bedding-roll type, provides a partial solution to the problem, but is not fully satisfactory as it lacks shelf space for the storage of toilet articles, underwear, and similar articles of small bulk, which thus tend to become scattered in inaccessible places inside the luggage. It has also been proposed to mount canvas shelves on a flexible back and sides, and to provide the device with removable stays so that it can be set up as a shelf cabinet when camp is made, and rolled up in a compact roll when camp is broken; such a device well answers the purpose for which it is designed, but lacks storage space for suits, overcoats, and other large articles of apparel.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a portable wardrobe with both shelf space and clothes-storage space.

Another object of this invention is a portable wardrobe which, when not in use, is rolled up in a compact roll, and when in use is supported by removable supports to provide a semi-rigid structure with shelves and clothes space.

A further object of this invention is a combined shelf cabinet and clothes compartment, suitable for use in transient, semi-permanent and even permanent camps, being of simple, sturdy and inexpensive construction and presenting an attractive appearance.

These and other objects of my invention will appear more fully from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof as illustrated in the appended drawings.

A portable wardrobe in accordance with my invention essentially consists of flexible walls defining a clothes compartment, flexible sides projecting therefrom, flexible shelves fastened to the sides and to one of the walls, and removable rigid

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stays to support the shelves when the wardrobe is set up. The flexible parts of my wardrobe are so dimensioned that the device can be rolled up compactly when the stays are removed.

A preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated in the appended drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a portable wardrobe in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a right hand side elevation view corresponding to Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a section taken through Fig. 1 along lines 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the portable wardrobe illustrated in the preceding figures;

Fig. 5 is a rear elevation, partly broken away, corresponding to Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of a portable wardrobe in rolled-up condition;

Fig. 7 is a plan view of a blank for a flexible shelf for incorporation in the portable wardrobe according to my invention;

Fig. 8 is a bottom plan view of a shelf incorporated in a portable wardrobe in accordance with my invention, partly assembled and with supports in place;

Fig. 9 is a section through Fig. 8 along lines 9—9;

Fig. 10 illustrates in perspective view the arrangement of supports for one of my shelves;

Fig. 11 illustrates in perspective view the arrangement of the supports for my bottom shelf; and

Fig. 12 is a detailed view, in section, of the bottom shelf support of my portable wardrobe and is taken along lines 12—12 of Fig. 1.

More particularly, reference letter C denotes a rectangular clothes compartment of a length exceeding its width, and of a depth smaller than its width. The front and rear of clothes compartment C are respectively flexible walls 10 and 11 (rear) of rectangular shape and of waterproofed canvas or similar material. A pair of side walls 12, of the same material, is joined to walls 10 and 11, one of the side walls preferably being provided with a longitudinally extending slide fastener 13 to permit access to the interior of clothes compartment C. The top wall 14 of compartment C preferably includes plywood, leather, or similar material to give the compartment a certain amount of semi-rigidity when set up. A handle 15 at top 14 serves as carrying means when the wardrobe is rolled up, and as a means for suspending the wardrobe from above when it is set up. A pair of longitudinal straps 16, 16' are endwise suspended from top 14 and

associated with buckles 17, 17' to serve as conventional fastening means when the wardrobe is rolled up. The bottom portion of compartment C is preferably made into a distinct compartment by means of partition 18 between walls 10 and 11, and is provided with a transverse slide fastener 19 to permit ready access thereto; because of its shape and location, it lends itself to use as a container for shoes which are thus beneath and out of contact with clothes suspended inside compartment C by means of a clothes hanger 20 or similar means removably depending from top 14. A wide patch pocket P, accessible through slide fastener 21, may be joined to front wall 10 near its top.

Each of side walls 12 has an extension or wing W extending beyond the wall 10 of compartment C; the extensions constitute side walls for a shelf cabinet which is an integral part of my wardrobe, and for which wall 10 of compartment C serves as back portion; thus, wall 10 serves as an intermediate wall between the shelf structure and the wardrobe compartment. A plurality of rectangular shelves 22, 23 of canvas or similar material, each having pockets (which will be described in greater detail hereafter), is joined to side extensions W and wall 10. In order to close the shelf cabinet, I provide a flap closure wall or door 24 which corresponds in size to the open front of the shelf cabinet, and is fastened along a lower portion of each vertical edge to the adjacent side extension W, and provided with a slide-fastener runway 25 along its remaining edges, which may be attached to and detached from corresponding portions of the shelf cabinet equipped with a slide-fastener runway 25'.

Each shelf 22 is provided with four marginal pockets, a pair of pockets 22' being parallel to wall 10, and the other pair of pockets 22'' being normal thereto. Each of pockets 22' houses a rigid stay 26 which, once in place, need not be removed from its pocket even when the wardrobe is rolled up for transportation. Each of pockets 22'' is open at the end of the shelf which faces the shelf cabinet closure wall 24, and removable rigid stays 27, 27' are insertable into pockets 22'' to assume a position below and supporting permanent transverse stays 26; thus, when all four stays pertaining to a shelf are in place, the shelf is rigidly supported and capable of carrying a number of articles without distortion.

In order to increase the rigidity of my wardrobe, when assembled, I provide a special support construction associated with bottom shelf 23. Instead of supporting it with a pair of removable stays of a length corresponding to the depth of the shelf, as is the case in top and middle shelves 22, bottom shelf 23 is equipped with a pair of transverse permanent stays 28, 28' in its transverse pockets 23', 23'' and with a pair of removable rigid stays 29 of a length corresponding to the combined depth of shelf cabinet and clothes compartment C. A pair of holes is cut in front wall 10 at 30, 30' to permit passage of removable stays 29, 29', and a transverse brace 31 is mounted on the outside of rear wall 11 of clothes compartment C by a leather strip S or similar means, in the plane of bottom shelf 23. Brace 31 is provided with suitable recesses 32, 32' to receive the ends of removable stays 29, 29'.

To set up my wardrobe, it is preferably spread out flat on the floor, or suspended from above by handle 15, and removable stays 27, 27' and 29, 29' are inserted in their pockets below shelves 22, 23. The last-mentioned stays 29, 29' are inserted all

the way through the clothes compartment until their ends come to rest in recesses 32, 32' of brace 31 on the rear wall 11 of clothing compartment C. All removable stays are preferably rabbeted at their ends facing the opening of the shelf compartment, so that transverse stays 26 and 28 may rest on the rabbeted end portions of the removable stays without causing unevenness of the canvas shelves. The stays may be made of any lightweight, non-deteriorating material possessing sufficient strength for its purpose, such as plywood, solid plastic material, aluminum, etc.

When it is desired to roll up my wardrobe for transportation, the rabbet joints between stays 26 and 27, 27', and between stays 28 and 29, 29', respectively, are released by forcing stays 27, 27' and 29, 29' vertically downwardly, and removable stays 27, 27' and 29, 29' are pulled out of their pockets and preferably placed inside the clothing compartment 10 in a manner that will not interfere with the rolling of the wardrobe. My wardrobe is now ready to be rolled up and strapped by means of outside straps 16, 16'.

It will thus be seen that I have provided the art with a dual-purpose item of luggage which is suitable for simultaneous use as a clothes wardrobe and as a shelf cabinet. While my wardrobe is not suitable for the transportation of bulky articles, flexible items, such as a suit, underwear, shirts, a blanket, and similar articles, may be transported in my portable wardrobe.

It is obvious that structural details of the above-described preferred embodiment of my invention are capable of modifications in their arrangement, dimensions, or both, without departing from the function of my invention. I thus intend to claim such modifications and equivalents which will readily occur to the expert as within the scope of my invention, and desire to be limited only by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a portable wardrobe, the combination of a luggage compartment comprising a pair of flexible walls and a pair of flexible sides extending beyond said walls with a plurality of flexible shelves on the outside of said compartment and joined to said sides and to one of said compartment walls, supporting means for said shelves comprising pairs of rigid stays insertable adjacent the side edges of said shelves, at least one pair of said stays extending through said last-named wall and along the sides of said compartment, means on one of said compartment walls for removably receiving said last-named pair of stays in shelf-supporting and compartment-distending position, and auxiliary means rigidly supporting said shelves in a horizontal plane.

2. In a portable wardrobe, the combination of a luggage compartment comprising a pair of flexible walls and a pair of flexible sides extending beyond said walls, with a plurality of flexible shelves on the outside of said compartment and joined to said sides and to one of said walls, supporting means for said shelves comprising pairs of rigid stays insertable adjacent the side edges of said shelves, rigid transverse shelf-supporting means parallel to one of said walls, at least one pair of said stays extending through said last-named wall and along the sides of said compartment, and a rigid transverse brace on one of said flexible walls, said brace being apertured for the reception of a pair of said first-named rigid stays.

3. In a portable wardrobe, the combination of a luggage compartment comprising a pair of flexible walls and a pair of flexible sides extending

beyond said walls with a plurality of flexible shelves on the outside of said compartment and joined to said sides and to one of said compartment walls, and supporting means for said shelves comprising pairs of rigid stays having rabbeted ends and their opposite ends being insertable adjacent the side edges of said shelves, at least one pair of said stays extending through said last-named wall and along the sides of said compartment, means on one of said compartment walls for removably receiving said last-named pair of stays in shelf-supporting and compartment-distending position, and transverse stays rigidly supporting said shelves in a horizontal plane, said transverse stays being supported by the rabbeted ends of the other stays.

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