

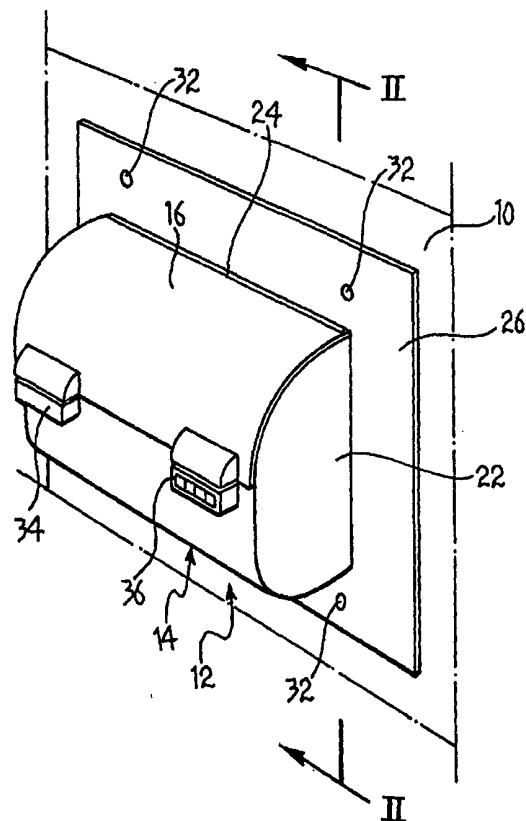


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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/07600 (22) International Filing Date: 11 October 1999 (11.10.99) (30) Priority Data: TO98U000188 12 October 1998 (12.10.98) IT (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): GARR & CO. S.R.L. [IT/IT]; Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 44, I-10020 Andezeno (IT). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): GARRINO, Giovanni [IT/IT]; Strada Turriglie, 13A, I-10023 Chieri (IT). (74) Agents: SACONNEY, Piero et al.; Jacobacci & Perani S.p.A., Corso Regio Parco, 27, I-10152 Torino (IT).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: A CONTAINER FOR PERSONAL EFFECTS**(57) Abstract**

A container for personal effects, such as a bag, a duffel bag, a satchel, a rucksack or the like, which includes a main envelope (10) of a floppy or vulnerable material having on the outside thereof at least one receptacle (12) which is closable and accessible from the outside of the main envelope (10). This receptacle (12), or at least one of the said receptacles, is constituted by a box-like casing, at least the visible parts thereof being made of a rigid material able to withstand squashing and tearing.



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A container for personal effects

The present invention relates to a container for personal effects such as a bag, duffel bag, satchel, rucksack or the like, which includes a main envelope of floppy or weak material, with at least one closable receptacle on the external surface thereof, accessible from outside.

Many containers of the type under consideration have one or more external pockets in which the owner can store objects to which he wants easy access, without having to open the main container and, predictably, rummage through the contents thereof.

These objects may be papers, bank notes or valuables, or fragile or delicate items.

These external pockets are usually made of the same soft material as the main envelope, or a similar material such as a textile, leather or synthetic leather, or may be formed inside the main envelope but be accessible from outside through a slit, closed by a zip or a buckle.

On one hand, objects stored in the pocket are vulnerable to theft: a wrongdoer could either cut or rip the pocket; on the other, if the objects are delicate or fragile they are liable to be squashed and thereby damaged or destroyed, especially if the container is deposited with others or carried on crowded public transport.

The object of the invention is to provide a container for personal effects of the type under consideration, which has one or more receptacles acting as outside pockets but is free of the aforesaid disadvantages.

This object is achieved according to the invention by providing a container of the type under consideration, characterised in that the receptacle accessible from outside, or at least one of these receptacles, is constituted by a box-like casing, at least the visible portions of which are made of a rigid material able to withstand squashing and tearing.

Thanks to this arrangement, a container for personal effects is provided which has at least one "armoured" outside pocket, able to withstand tampering and squashing.

The object of the invention will become clearer from the detailed description which follows, provided with reference to the appended drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a receptacle according to the invention, applied to the outside envelope of a general container for personal effects, shown only in part,

Figure 2 is a cross section taken on the line II-II of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a perspective view on a larger scale of a closure with lock provided on the receptacle of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is a perspective view of an example in which the container of the invention is a large overnight bag,

Figure 5 is a perspective view of an example in which the container of the invention is a briefcase,

Figure 6 is a perspective view of an example in which the container of the invention is a shoulder bag,

Figure 7 is a perspective view of an example in which the container of the invention is a rucksack, and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of an example in which the container of the invention is a beauty case.

In Figure 1, a portion of the soft or vulnerable main envelope of a container for personal effects is indicated 10.

Examples of such containers are shown in Figures 4 to 8.

The main envelope 10 can be made of textile material, leather, synthetic leather or the like. The material of the envelope 10 can also be relatively rigid, but vulnerable, such as cardboard, and can be covered in a decorative sheet material, a textile for example.

With reference to Figures 1 and 2, a receptacle generally indicated 12 is arranged on the outside of the envelope 10.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2, the receptacle 12 is constituted by a box-like casing made of a rigid material able to withstand squashing and tearing.

As shown, the box-like casing 12 preferably comprises two parts: a lower part 14 and an upper part 16.

In cross section, the lower part 14 is shaped like a U or a V, with a front wall 18, a back wall 20 and a pair of side walls 22.

Thus shaped, the lower part 14 defines a chamber which, in use of the container, is open at the top.

The upper part 16 is a lid for closing the chamber and is pivoted on the back wall 20 at 24, so as to close the top of the chamber.

A strengthening patch 26, of leather for example, is applied to the envelope 10 at the site of the receptacle 12 and forms a frame for the receptacle 12.

The back wall 20 of the receptacle 12 is permanently fixed to a plate element 28 of a strong material such as metal.

The entire peripheral border 30 of the element 28 is offset inwardly, as shown in Figure 2, and fitted to the back of the strengthening patch 26.

In order to fix the receptacle 12 to the envelope 10, the border 30 is fixed to the strengthening patch 26 by means of rivets 32.

The receptacle 12 has means for locking the cover 16 in position closing the chamber of the lower part 14.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, one of these locking means, indicated 34, is an ordinary fastener as used on conventional luggage, while the other, indicated 36, is of a lockable type.

A preferred lockable device, again indicated 36, is illustrated in Figure 3. This is a combination lock, the tumblers of which are indicated 38.

The receptacle 12 can be made of any rigid material able to withstand squashing and tearing, such as galvanized sheet iron, aluminium or shock-resistant plastics material.

It is also conceivable that the receptacle 12 could have a lower wall 14, for example, constituted by a shell of plastics material and a lid 16 made of metal, or vice versa. One of these parts 14, 16 could be made of transparent plastics material which would involve a slight increase in the risk of theft but would have the advantage of enabling the owner to inspect the contents without opening the receptacle.

The exterior of the rigid material of the receptacle 12 could also be covered in a decorative sheet material, such as a textile.

Figures 1 and 2 show an embodiment in which the lower part 14 has a back wall 20, but this wall could be omitted and the receptacle 12 fixed to the main envelope in a different manner: the important thing, within the scope of the invention, is that

the visible portions of the receptacle 12 are made of a tough, rigid material.

Figure 4 shows an overnight bag, the envelope of which could be of a conventional floppy material.

On one side, the envelope 10 has a pair of receptacles 12 similar to those illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 5 shows a briefcase, the envelope 10 thereof being of leather or synthetic leather, for example, with a receptacle 12 on one side, similar to those of Figures 1 and 2.

In Figure 6, the container is constituted by a shoulder bag with one receptacle 12, similar to those of Figures 1 and 2, applied to a flap, indicated 10, provided to close the main compartment of the bag.

In Figure 7, the container is a rucksack.

A receptacle 12 like those of Figures 1 and 2 is fitted to a back surface, again indicated 10, of the main envelope by means of a reinforcing element 26 like those of Figures 1 and 2.

The anti-theft characteristic provided by the rigid, tear-proof material of the receptacle 12, combined with the lockable closure 36, is especially useful in the case of a rucksack, whether large or small, since the owner, when wearing it, is not able to see the outside pocket constituted by the receptacle 12: while an external pocket made of a textile or

similar material could easily be cut or ripped by a thief without the owner being aware of it, he would have no trouble noticing an attempt to break into the receptacle 12.

In Figure 8, a receptacle 12 similar to those of Figures 1 and 2 is fitted to the upper surface, again indicated 10, of a beauty case.

In this case, the upper wall of the lid of the case can be made of a rigid but vulnerable material, such as cardboard covered with a decorative material.

In Figures 1, 2 and 4 to 8 the receptacles 12 are shown with a rounded shape, but a receptacle according to the invention may be of any shape, such as for example a squared shape, on the condition that it is made of a rigid material adapted to resist to squash and tearing.

CLAIMS

1. A container for personal effects, such as a bag, duffel-bag, satchel, rucksack or the like, which includes a main envelope (10) of floppy or vulnerable material, with at least one receptacle (12) arranged on the outside thereof so as to be accessible from outside the envelope (10) and closable, characterised in that the, or at least one of the said externally accessible receptacles (12), is constituted by a box-like casing, at least the visible parts of which are made of a rigid material able to withstand squashing and tearing.

2. A container according to Claim 1, characterised in that the box-like container (12) comprises two parts, one (14) of which is fixed to the main envelope (10) and defines a chamber which, in use of the container, is open at the top, and the other (16) of which is a lid, pivoted on the part (14) defining the chamber so as to close it, and in that it also includes means (36) for securing the lid (16) in its closed position, thereby preventing any unauthorized access to the inside of the receptacle (12).

3. A container according to Claim 2, characterised in that the said securing means (36) are of a lockable type.

4. A container according to any one of the preceding Claims, characterised in that the box-like casing (12) is constituted, at least in part, by a metal shell.

5. A container according to any Claim from 1 to 3, characterised in that the box-like casing (12) is constituted, at least in part, by a shell of plastics material.

6. A container according to Claim 5, characterised in that at least part of the plastics shell is transparent.

7. A container according to any Claim from 1 to 5, characterised in that the outside of the box-like casing (12) is covered in a decorative sheet material, such as a textile.

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FIG. 1

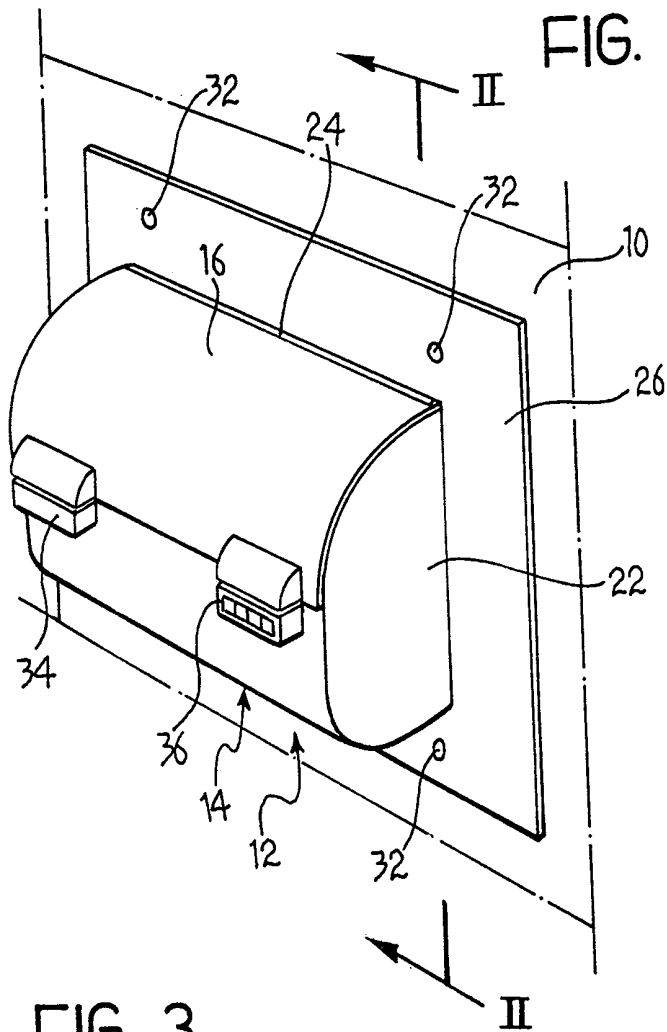


FIG. 2

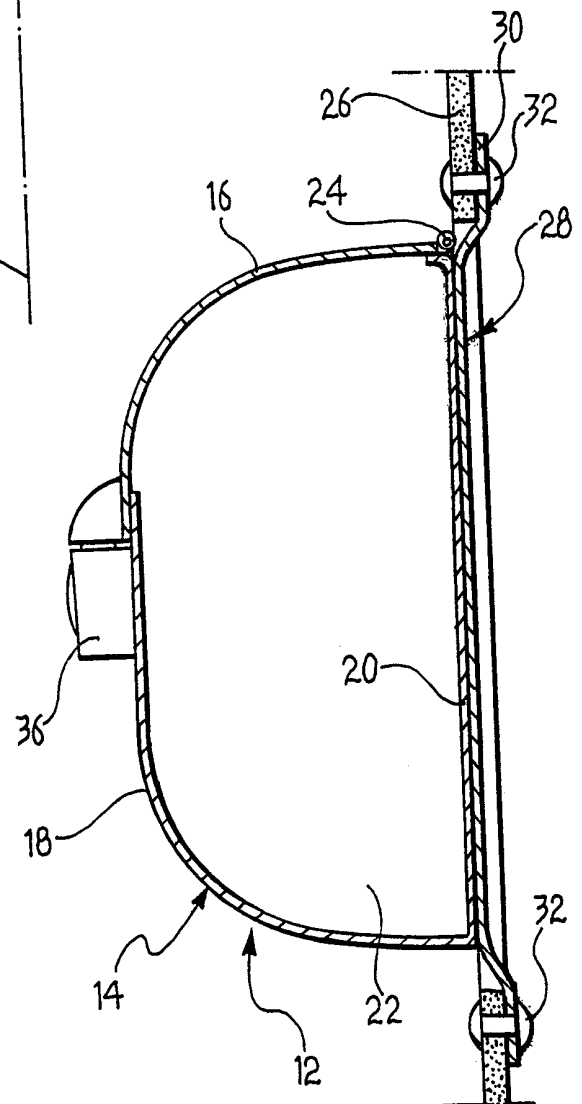
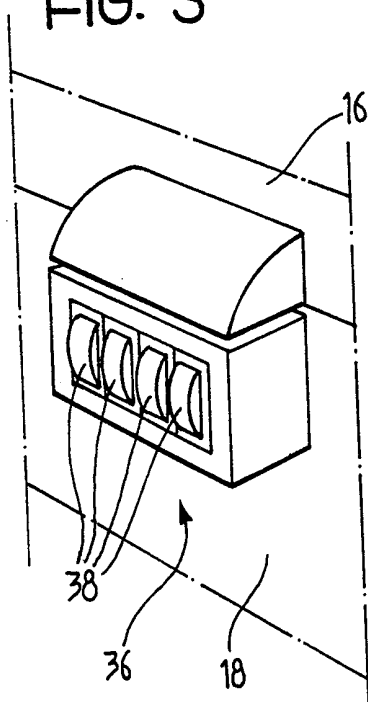


FIG. 3



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FIG. 4

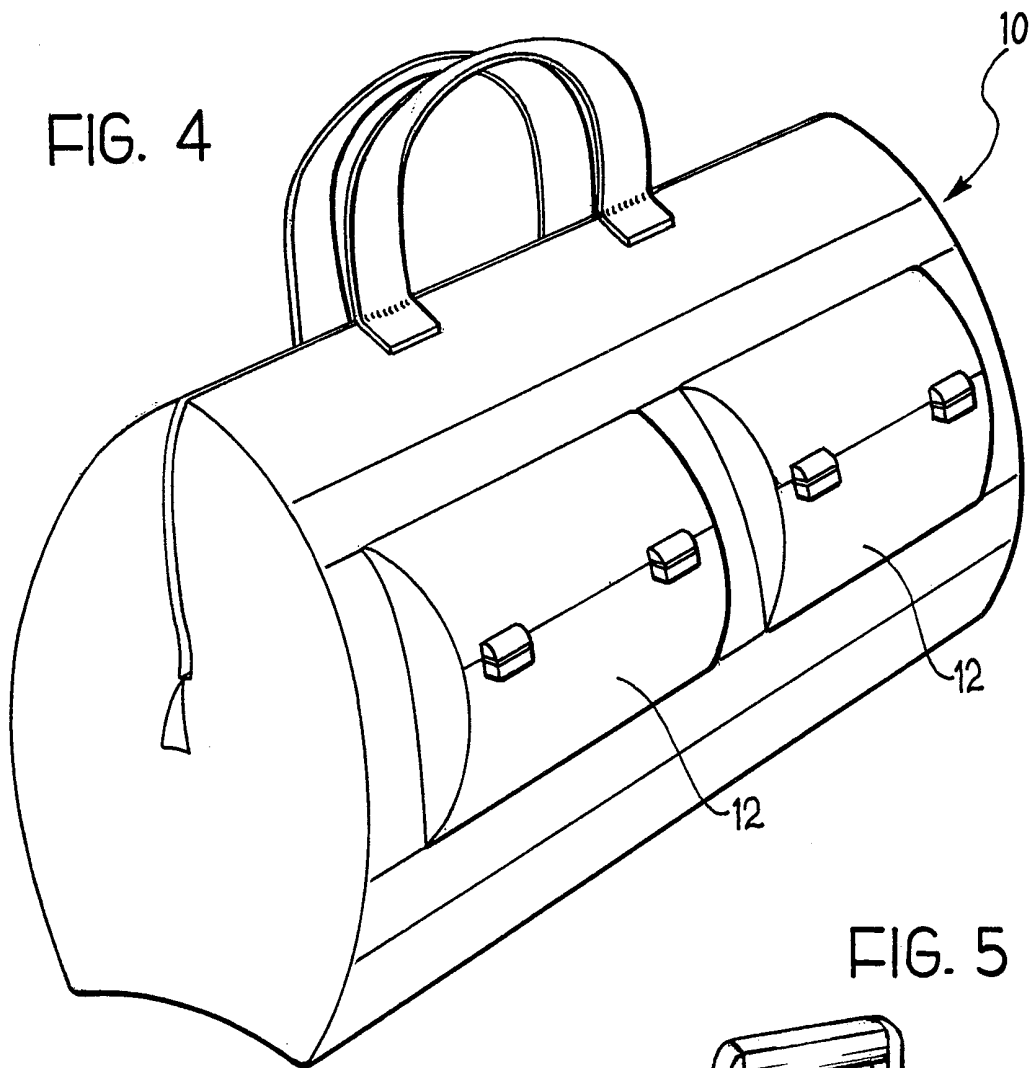
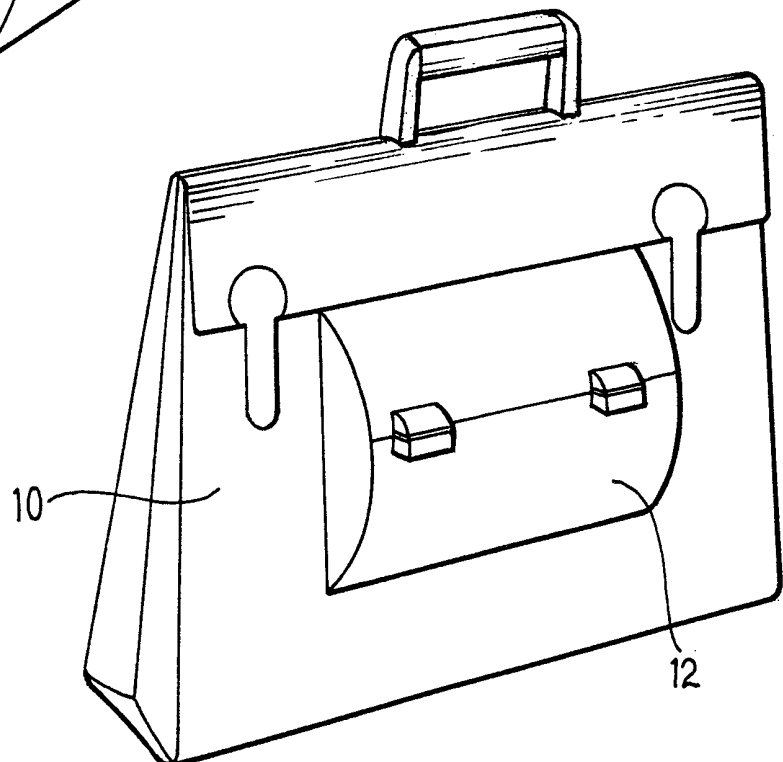


FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

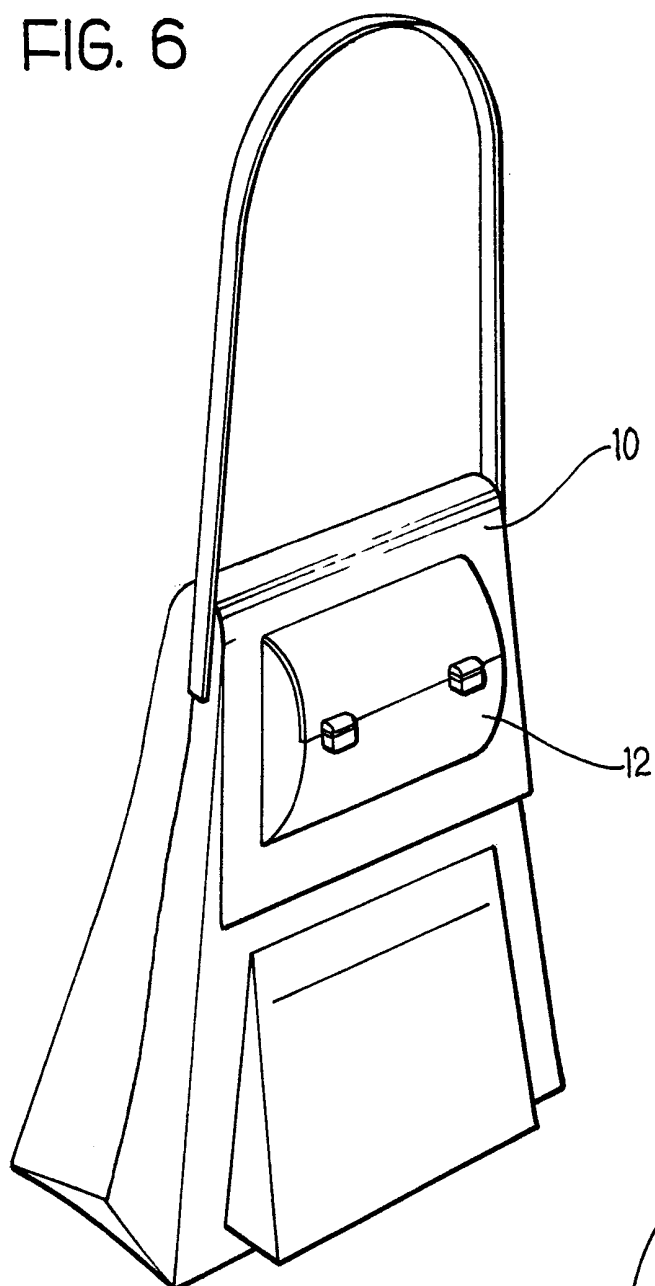


FIG. 8

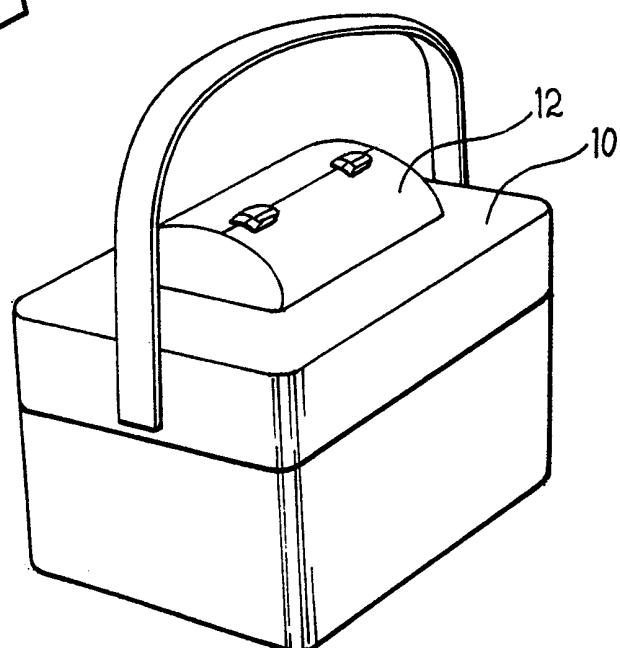
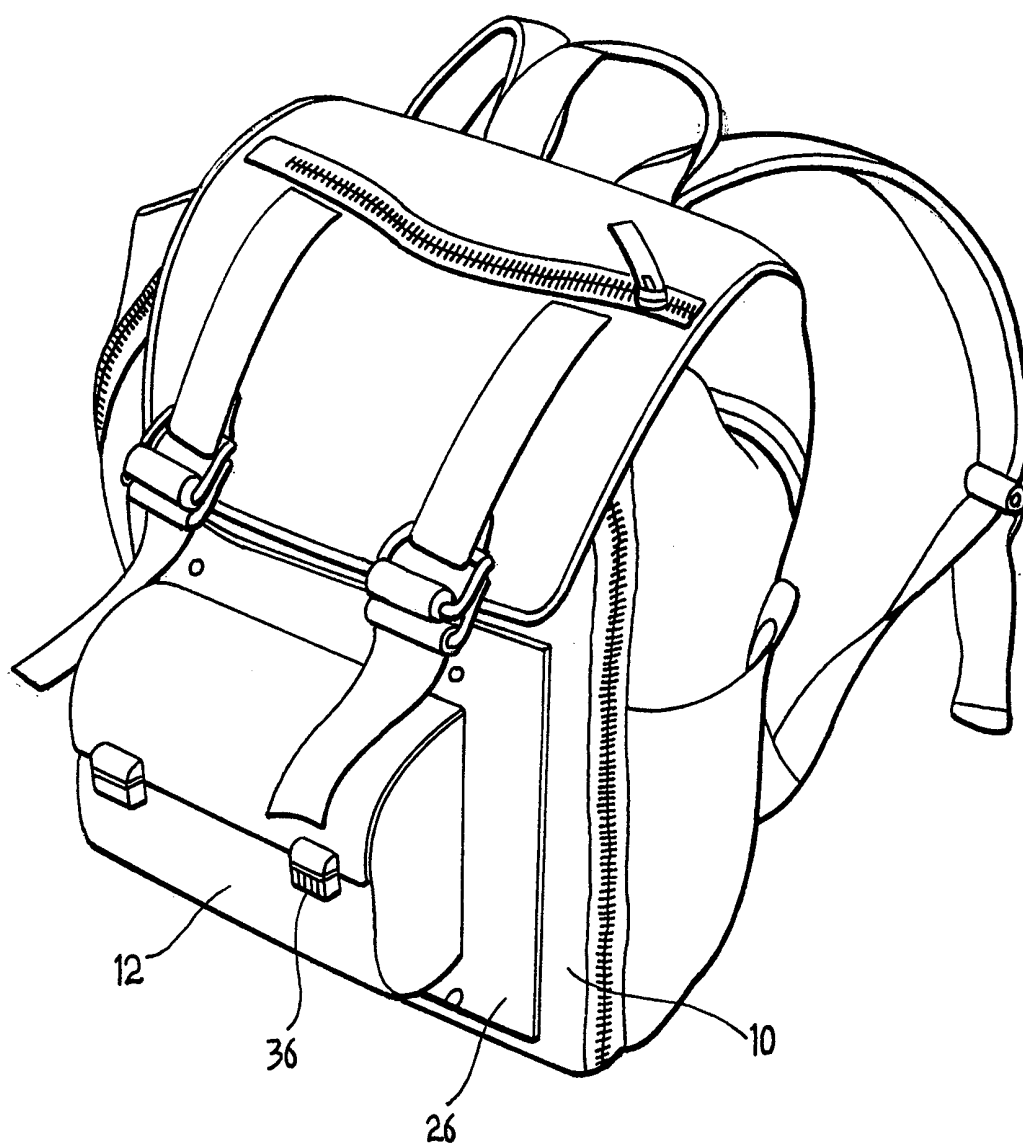


FIG. 7



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 99/07600

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A45C5/06 A45C3/00

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A45C A45F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 105 919 A (BOMES HARVEY J ET AL) 21 April 1992 (1992-04-21)	1,5,7
Y	column 2, line 54 - line 68 column 3, paragraph 6; figure 1	2-4,6
Y	DE 195 25 571 A (ANDIAMO INC) 25 January 1996 (1996-01-25) figure 1	2,3
Y	DE 90 03 039 U (HERLITZ AG) 11 July 1991 (1991-07-11) page 20, paragraph 2 - paragraph 3; figure 6 page 21, paragraph 3 - page 22, paragraph 1	4
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Y	DE 30 40 915 A (ERNST PLESS VERTRIEBSGESELLSCH) 9 June 1982 (1982-06-09) page 5, paragraph 3 -----	6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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