July 5, 1960 S. BELLER 2,943,899

PORTABLE BAG FOR TRANSPORTING AND STORING SHOES

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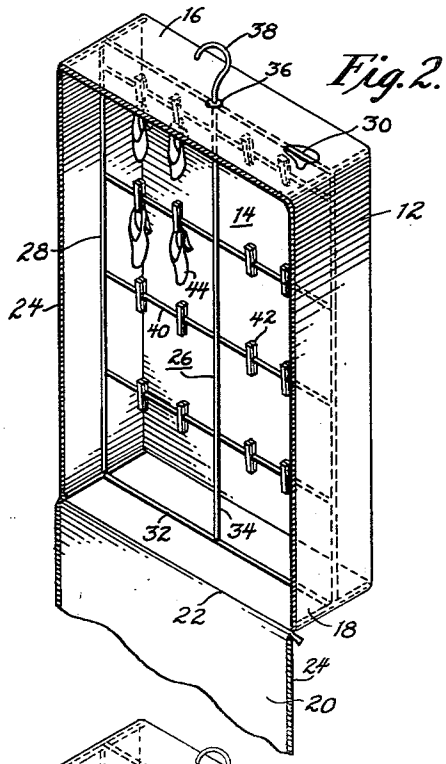


Fig. 2.

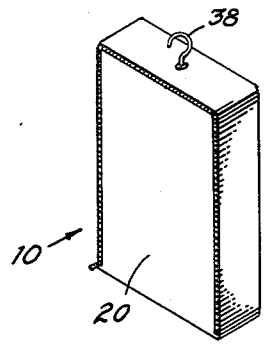


Fig. 1.

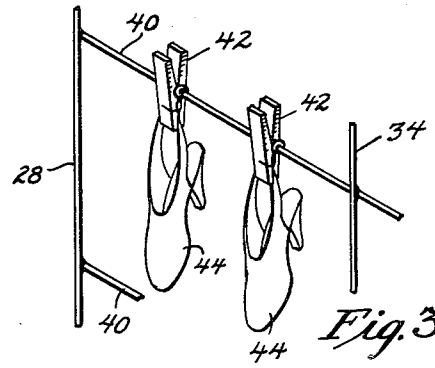


Fig. 3.

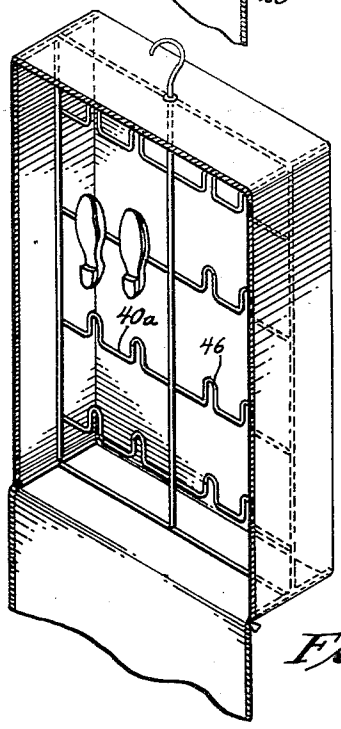


Fig. 4.

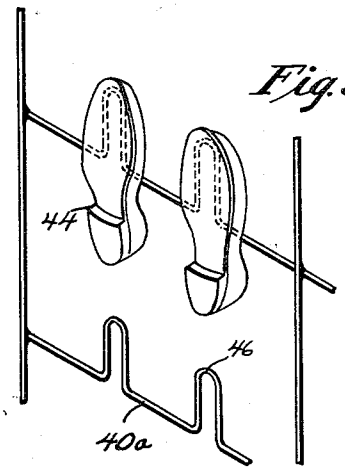


Fig. 5.

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Fig. 6.

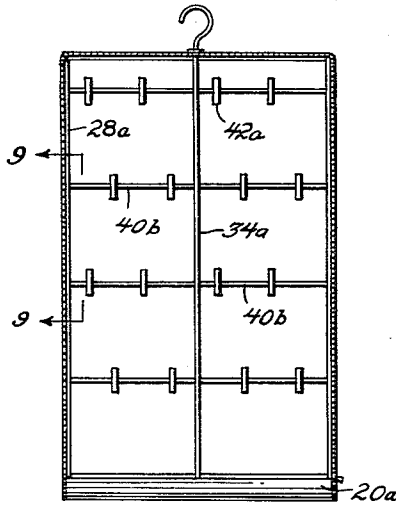


Fig. 7.

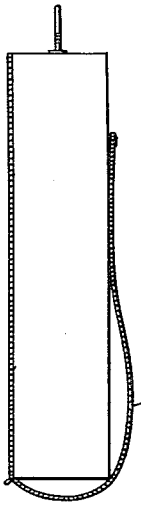
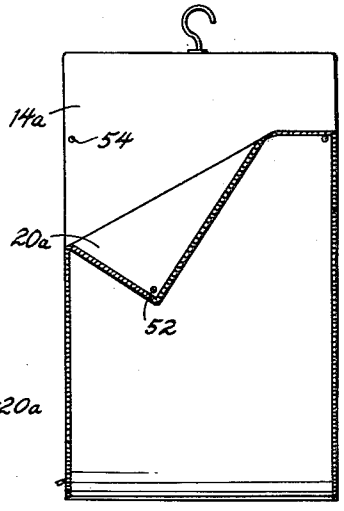


Fig. 8.



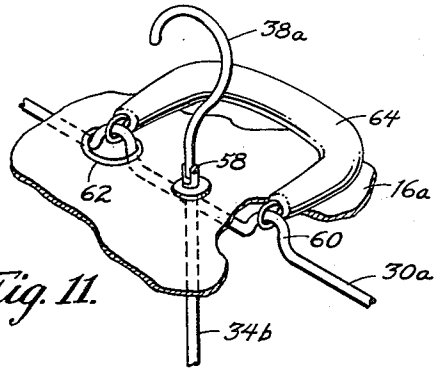


Fig. 11.

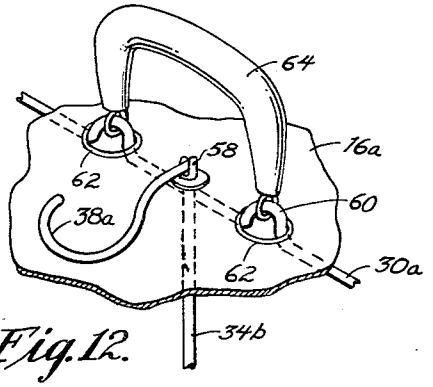


Fig. 12.

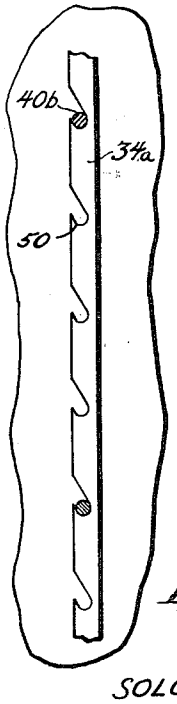


Fig. 9.

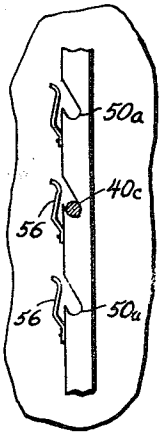


Fig. 10.

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PORTABLE BAG FOR TRANSPORTING AND STORING SHOES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 312—3)

The present invention relates to a portable bag for transporting and storing shoes.

Modern fashions dictate that a well dressed lady have a wide variety of shoes available to her. For example, a well dressed lady may even require separate pairs of shoes to match a particular dress or outfit ensemble. Thus, even for a relatively short time period, as for a two-week vacation, a well dressed lady may require as many as six separate pairs of shoes and perhaps even more.

The necessity for transporting and storing large numbers of shoes has led to difficulties. The more or less haphazard strewing of shoes on the floor of a closet is undesirable not only for esthetic reasons, but also because shoes when so positioned are relatively unavailable to the user.

This invention has as an object the provision of a portable bag for transporting shoes about.

This invention has as another object the provision of a portable bag in which all of the shoes contained within the bag are displayed in an orderly arrangement permitting the user to make an immediate selection, when the bag is suspended on a horizontal rail.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

For the purpose of illustrating the invention there are shown in the drawings forms which are presently preferred; it being understood, however, that this invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the shoe bag of the present invention with the cover thereof in closed disposition.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the shoe bag of the present invention with the cover thereof in open disposition.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary enlarged detail view showing the means for hanging shoes in the shoe bag embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the shoe bag of the present invention with the cover thereof in open disposition.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary detail view of the shoe holding means in the shoe bag embodiment shown in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is an elevational view of another embodiment of the present invention with the cover in open disposition.

Figure 7 is a side elevational view of the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figure 6 with the cover open and secured to the back of the shoe bag.

Figure 8 is a rear elevational view of the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figure 6 with the cover partially secured to the rear of the shoe bag.

Figure 9 is a fragmentary section on line 9—9 of Figure 6.

Figure 10 is a fragmentary view of a portion of one of the vertical I-shaped elements of yet another embodiment of the shoe bag of the present invention.

Figure 11 is a fragmentary perspective view of a modification of the shoe bag of the present invention showing one form of handle embodiment in which the hook is uprightly disposed and the handle is disposed in horizontal position.

Figure 12 is a fragmentary perspective view similar to that of Figure 11 in which the hook is horizontally disposed and the handle is disposed in an upright position.

Referring to the drawings, and initially to Figures 1, 2 and 3 the shoe bag of the present invention is designated by the numeral **10** and comprises a rectangular container having side walls **12**, a rear wall **14**, a ceiling **16**, and a base **18**. The cover **20** is pivotably hinged to the base **18** along crease line **22**. The elements of a zipper **24** are provided on the free edges of the side walls **12**, the ceiling **16**, and the free edges of the cover **20**.

The side walls **12**, rear wall **14**, ceiling **16** and cover **20** of the shoe bag **10** of the present invention may be formed from a flexible plastic, and may be colored, or translucent, or transparent. The shoe bag **10** is maintained in its expanded condition with the plastic components thereof being prevented from collapsing by means of the skeletal framework **26**. The skeletal framework **26** is preferably formed of rigid wire, such as plastic or metal wire. The skeletal framework **26** includes lateral I-shaped elements **28**, with the upper horizontal portion of such of the I-shaped elements **28** being nested in an upper corner of the bag **10**, and the lower horizontal portion of each of the I-shaped elements being nested in a lower corner of the bag **10**. The vertical portion of each of the I-shaped elements **28** serves as a supporting rib for the adjacent side wall **12** and is positioned intermediate the edges of such side wall **12**, preferably along the centerline thereof. An upper horizontal rib **30** and a lower horizontal rib **32** join the I-shaped elements **28** at the upper and lower extremities thereof, respectively. A vertical center bar **34** is fixedly secured to lower horizontal rib **32** and upper horizontal rib **30** and extends through a ferruled opening **36** in the ceiling **16** of the shoe bag **10**. The vertical center bar **34** terminates in a hook **38** permitting the shoe bag **10** to be hung from a support rod.

A plurality of horizontal crossbars **40**, four of which are shown in the illustrated embodiment, are fixedly secured to the I-shaped elements **28** and to the vertical center bar **34**. While, as above-indicated, four horizontal crossbars **40** are shown in the illustrated embodiment, it is, of course, to be understood that a greater or smaller number of such horizontal crossbars may be used in the shoe bag of the present invention.

Each horizontal crossbar **40** is provided with a series of laterally spaced hanger elements **42** which may comprise shoe clips, such as the spring-urged shoe clips shown in the drawings. Shoes **44** are suspended from each of the hangers or shoe clips **42**, and are disposed in neat orderly arrangement, as shown particularly in Figure 2. Since the horizontal crossbars **40** are positioned substantially midway between the rear wall **14** and the cover **20**, when the cover **20** is in its closed disposition, the shoes **44** when suspended as shown in Figure 2 may be pivoted somewhat without striking rear wall **14** or cover **20**. It is not possible for the shoes **44** to strike each other, even when the shoe bag **10** of the present invention is suspended on a moving vehicle and is subject to considerable agitation.

In the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figures 4 and 5, the horizontal crossbars **40***a* are not provided with hanger elements, but instead are provided with upwardly directed curved or bowed members **46** onto which the shoes **44** may be fitted as shown particularly in Figure 5.

The shoe bag **10** of the present invention has great structural strength, and may be transported about from place to place without any injury whatsoever to the shoes **44**. The shoes **44** are at all times displayed in orderly alignment and may be readily removed by the user of the shoe bag **10**. Inasmuch as ready access to the shoes **44** may be obtained by opening the zipper **24**, the shoe bag **10** provides a convenient permanent storage space for shoes, the shoe contents thereof being protected from dust when the cover **20** is closed.

In the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9, the I-shaped elements **28***a* and the vertical center bar **34***a* are provided with aligned angular notches **50**, as shown particularly in Figure 9. The notches **50** receive horizontal crossbars **40***b* which carry horizontally spaced hanger elements **42***a*, which may comprise shoe clips similar to those shown for the embodiment set forth in Figures 1, 2 and 3. However, in this embodiment of the present invention the hanger elements **42***a* on each of the horizontal crossbars **40***b* are staggered with respect to the hanger elements **42***a* on the horizontal crossbar **40***b* above and/or below it. By staggering the hanger elements **42***a* in the manner indicated, interference between shoes carried on one horizontal crossbar **40***b* and shoes carried on an adjacent horizontal crossbar **40***b* is avoided. The vertical spacing of horizontal crossbars **40***b* may be regulated by selectively placing such horizontal crossbars **40***b* in a predetermined notch **50**.

In the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9, means are provided whereby a cover **20***a* may be secured to the rear wall **14***a* of the shoe bag. This facilitates neatness, and prevents the cover **20***a* from being strewn on the closet floor. Thus, the outer surface of cover **20***a* is provided with female snap fastener elements **52** which may be matingly secured to male snap fastener elements **54** on rear wall **14***a*.

In the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figure 10, leaf springs **56** are provided adjacent each of the vertical notches **50***a* in the vertical I-shaped elements for preventing the dislodgment of horizontal crossbars **40***c* from the notches **50***a*. In all other respects the I-shaped element shown in Figure 10 resembles that shown in Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9.

In the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figures 11 and 12, the hook **38***a* is pivotally mounted by means of pivot **58** to vertical center bar **34***b*. Thus, the hook **38***a* may be raised as in Figure 11 so that the shoe bag may be carried on a horizontal rail or the like, or may be lowered as in Figure 12.

In this embodiment the upper horizontal rib **30***a* is provided with semicircular bends **60** which pass through grommeted openings **62** in ceiling **16***a*. A handle **64** is secured to semicircular bends **60** and is pivotable with respect thereto. Thus, the handle **64** may be rested horizontally on the upper surface of ceiling **16***a* as shown in Figure 11, or the handle **64** may be disposed in an upright position permitting the user of the shoe bag to transport it from place to place as shown in Figure 12.

In all other respects the embodiment shown in Figures 11 and 12 may resemble the embodiments shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3; or Figures 4 and 5; or Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9; or Figure 10; and may be incorporated in any one of such embodiments.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and, accordingly, reference should be made to the appended claim, rather than to the foregoing specification as indicating the scope of the invention.

I claim:

A portable shoe bag comprising a generally rectangular multipanel prismatic housing formed of relatively flexible material, an internal skeletal framework including a plurality of parallel vertical bars, a plurality of parallel horizontal bars, the ends of said horizontal bars being joined to the outermost of said vertical bars, with the ends of the uppermost and lowermost horizontal bars being joined to the adjacent ends of the outermost vertical bars, spaced shoe retention means carried on each of said horizontal bars, said horizontal and vertical bars lying generally in the same plane, a corner bar positioned generally normal to both said vertical bars and said horizontal bars at each of the ends of the outermost of said vertical bars and the corresponding ends of the uppermost and lowermost horizontal bars, each of said corner bars being disposed generally horizontally, and each of said corner bars being secured to its associated vertical bar at a point midway between the ends of said corner bar, with each of said corner bars distending said generally rectangular multipanel prismatic housing at a corner thereof and maintaining such housing in a distended disposition, a perforation in the ceiling of said housing, and a hanger for suspending said shoe bag to a support extending outside of said housing through said perforation.

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