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HAT HOLDER

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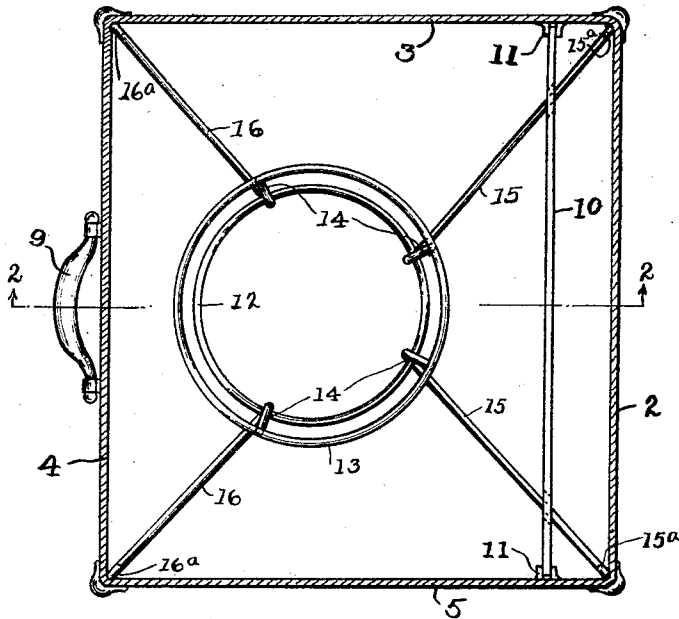


FIG. 1.

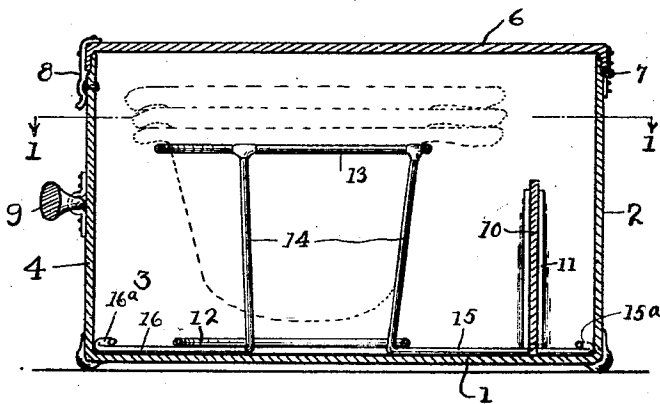


FIG. 2.

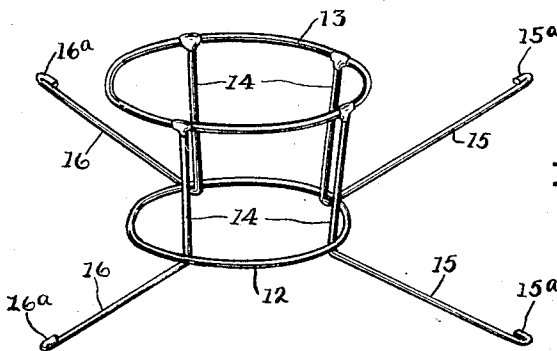


FIG. 3.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## HAT HOLDER

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This invention relates to an improved form of hat holder for use in a travelling case.

The object of this invention is to devise a simple form of structure which can be conveniently inserted into or removed from the travelling case and which will serve efficiently as a means of carrying hats without danger of mashing the same and at the same time permit other wearing apparel to be conveniently placed in the case about the hat holder.

Other objects will be apparent from the following description and claims when considered together with the accompanying drawing.

Fig. 1 is a sectional view of a travelling case with my improved form of hat holder placed therein, this view being taken on line 1—1 of Fig. 2; Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of my improved hat holder alone.

Referring to the drawing, reference numeral 1 will be here understood as indicating the bottom of the travelling case, the sides of the case being indicated by reference numerals 2, 3, 4, and 5. The top closure 6 is hingedly mounted at 7 upon the side wall 2 and is adapted for fastening at the point 8 to the side wall 4. The handle 9 is attached to the side wall 4. There may be employed also a partition member 10 slidably mounted at the point 11 so as to be readily removable therefrom.

The hat holder comprises a lower ring 12 and an upper ring 13 which are co-axially arranged the one above the other, the lower ring being slightly smaller than the upper ring. These two rings are connected together in such spaced relation by means of the upright bars 14, and the entire device thus far described is braced in the case by means of the substantially diagonally extending members 15 and 16 which are connected to the lower ring 12. In the present case, the upright members 14 are shown as being integral with the brace members 15 and 16, although this is not necessary. These members may be soldered at their points of attachment to the rings and smooth joints are provided so as to avoid rough edges which might cause damage to the hats.

The brace members 15 and 16 extend to and engage in the four corners of the case and rest upon the bottom thereof, as clearly indicated in Fig. 2. In case the partition member 10 should be employed, the brace members 15 will extend beneath the same. The extreme ends of the brace members are folded back on themselves, as indicated at 15<sup>a</sup> and 16<sup>a</sup>, so as to afford a better means of engagement and also to avoid damage which might be caused to the body of the case by the rough ends of the brace members. No other means is necessary for securing the holder in position.

The present form of hat holder is especially adapted for use in connection with ladies' hats having comparatively stiff brims which are adapted to rest upon the upper ring 13 while the crown of the hat depends in inverted position into the space afforded by the body part of the hat holder, as clearly indicated in Fig. 2. Other hats of the same general style or hats without brims can then be nested within the hat which has first been placed in position in the holder. The present form of holder has been designed and arranged with respect to a certain style of lady's hat in which the one portion of the brim is much more narrow than the remaining portion. With this in mind, the main body part of the hat holder is located nearer the side wall 4 and at a proper distance therefrom to allow the comparatively narrow portion of the brim to extend over the upper ring 13. The wider portion of the brim will be accommodated by the comparatively larger space on the opposite side of the hat holder. In other words, the space between the hat holder and the side wall 4 is only sufficiently great to accommodate the comparatively narrow portion of the brim, and the remaining space in the case is left entirely on the other side of the hat holder so as to utilize all the space in the case to the greatest advantage. As above suggested, the remaining space in the case about the hat holder is employed for other wearing apparel which can be packed entirely about the hat holder. An understanding of this particular arrangement of the hat holder with respect to the side walls of the

case will explain the difference in length between the brace members 15 and 16; and for the same reason, the brace members 15 are attached to the ring 12 at points which are closer together than the points of attachment of the brace members 16.

The present form of hat holder may be manufactured and installed originally as a part of the travelling case as it leaves the manufacturer so as to be recognized as part of the standard equipment of this type of case; or, if so desired, the hat holder may be manufactured and sold as a separate attachment which may be placed by the purchaser in a travelling case which is adapted to receive the same but which was not originally supplied therewith. In case the hat holder should be manufactured and sold as a separate article, the brace members 15 and 16 may be made sufficiently long so as to be capable of use in any and all sizes of travelling cases, and the ends of the brace members 15 and 16 may be shortened according to the length required for the particular size of case.

Thus, I have devised a comparatively simple and inexpensive form of hat holder which is capable of all the results desired and which possesses advantages obvious to those who are skilled in the art to which this invention relates.

The present disclosure is merely for purposes of illustration and this structure may be modified without departing from the spirit of the present invention. Any and all such modifications are intended to be comprehended by the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. A hat holder comprising co-axially arranged upper and lower rings, means for connecting said rings in spaced relation to each other, and brace members connected to said lower ring and extending therefrom so as to terminate in the corners of a travelling case, said parts being so constructed and arranged that said rings will occupy spaced relation to the side walls of the travelling case so that hats may be nested within said rings and other clothing may be placed about the same.

2. A hat holder comprising co-axially arranged upper and lower rings, means for connecting said rings in spaced relation to each other, and brace members connected to said lower ring and extending therefrom so as to terminate in the corners of a travelling case, the brace members on one side of said rings being shorter than those on the other side, and said shorter brace members being connected to said bottom ring at points farther apart from each other than the points of attachment of the other of said brace members.

In testimony whereof, I hereby affix my signature.

EDITH AU WERTER.