March 12, 1929. B. ZERENGA 1,705,436

SUITCASE FRAME

Filed Nov. 18, 1926

Fig. 1.

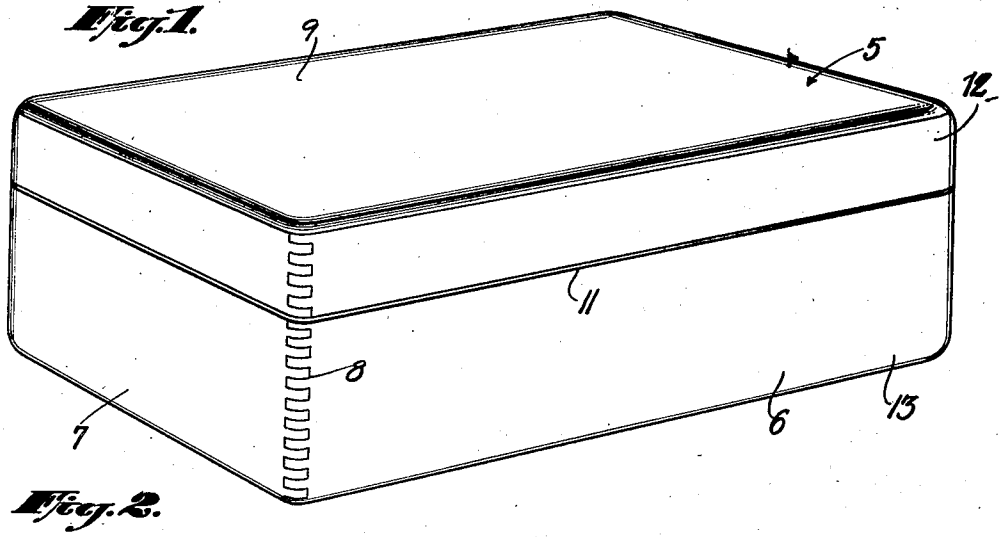


Fig. 2.

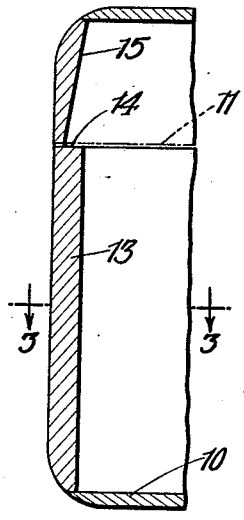


Fig. 4.

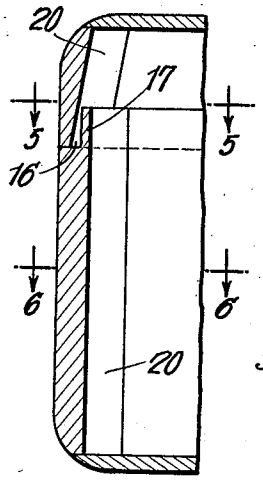


Fig. 9.

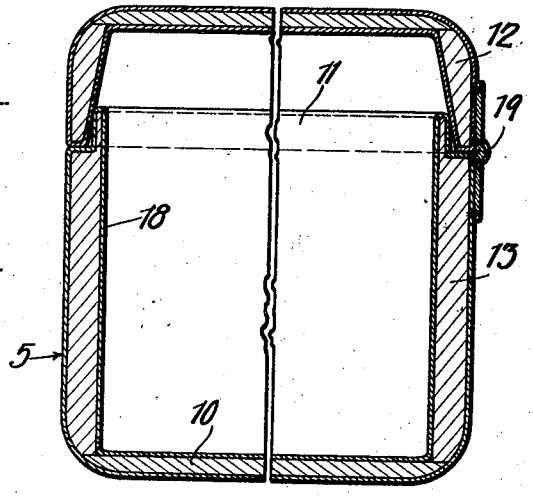


Fig. 3.

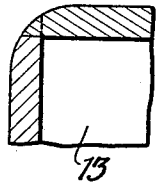


Fig. 5.

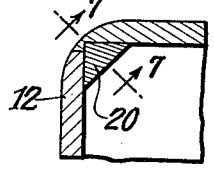


Fig. 7.

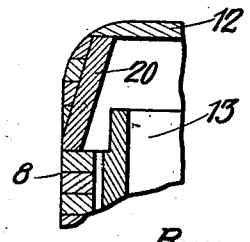


Fig. 8.

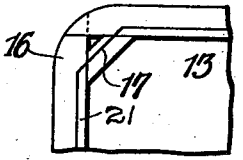
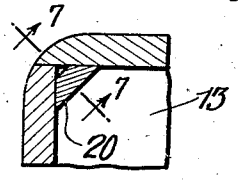


Fig. 6.



INVENTOR.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BONAVENTURE ZERENGA, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SUITCASE FRAME.

Application filed November 18, 1926. Serial No. 149,180.

This invention relates to suitcase frames and in particular to one constructed of wood, which will be light and durable.

A particular object of the invention is to provide a suitcase frame which, when covered will close properly and in which the parts, such as the body and the cover thereof, will fit together without bulge or sagging, as has heretofore been the case in suitcase frames which are made up without allowance for subsequent covering of leather or other material used in the trade.

In the making of the suitcase frame heretofore, much difficulty has been encountered due to the fact that the cutting of the wood to form the suitcase frame has resulted ultimately in crowding, due to the method of cutting, the crowding being due to the covering of the frame with leather or other like material, which is used to cover the frame and which, when placed thereover in the crevices and grooves in the frame, do not allow complete closing of the cover relatively to the body of the frame, thereby rendering the construction of the suitcase faulty and giving the finished product a poor finish.

To enable others skilled in the art to fully comprehend the underlying features of my invention that they may embody the same in the various modifications in structure and relation contemplated, a drawing depicting a preferred form has been annexed as a part of this disclosure and in such drawing, similar reference characters denote corresponding parts throughout all the views, of which,

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my improved suitcase frame showing the same after it has been cut through with a saw to form a body portion and a cover therefor.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary edge view, in sectional elevation of the box or frame, as it would appear after being cut by the saw at the point indicated by the dot and dash line.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2 showing how the end and side portions of the box are placed together through the medium of the tongue and groove joints, which are well known in this type of construction.

Figure 4 is a sectional view similar to Figure 2 taken nearer the corner of the box and illustrating how the cover and body portion will fit together after the box has been cut through by a saw to be divided into a cover and body portion.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4 and shows the corner construction of the frame.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 4 showing the corner construction of the frame body.

Figure 7 is a combined view in section taken on the lines 7—7 of Figures 5 and 6, showing the construction of the frame at the corner thereof.

Figure 8 is a top plan view of one corner of the box showing the undercut groove and the arrangement of the corner piece, having also a groove cut therein, and

Figure 9 is a view in sectional elevation showing the completed suitcase or trunk, the same being covered with leather or other like material.

Referring to the drawing in detail, 5 indicates generally, the frame which is composed of side members 6 and end members 7, joined at the corner by the usual tongue and groove joint 8 and closed to form a completed box by the top 9 and bottom 10. In the making up of suitcase frames embodying wood or other like construction, a completed box is made which is closed on all sides and the box is then cut as on the line 11 all around by a saw, thus forming an upper or lid portion 12 and a body portion 13.

This cut is made after the box has been completed so that the parts will fit together squarely, as it is evident that it would be almost impossible to make two halves of a box and have them fit together perfectly to form a lid and body portion.

However, in this type of construction, difficulty has been experienced that when the lid and body portion were subsequently covered with leather or other material, as a finish for the suitcase, the same prevented the accurate closing of the lid on the box body and in this invention, I have endeavored to overcome this objection by providing a novel method of forming the body and lid portions so that, when they are covered with leather or other suitable material, they will fit together snugly and allow accurate and close fitting and closing of the suitcase cover.

It is evident, of course, that this construction about to be described can be employed for trunks or other boxes and, in carrying out my invention, I provide the end and side pieces 7 and 6 respectively, with a cut back, groove 14, the face 15 of this cut back groove

being disposed at an angle so that the upper edge of the side or end pieces 6 and 7 are thicker at their top edges whereby they can form a support to which the top 9 may be glued or otherwise secured. The side and end members are joined at their corners by the usual tongue and groove joint 8 and closed by placing thereon the top and bottoms 9 and 10 respectively.

When the entire box has been completed, a saw cut completely around the box is made at the groove 14, so that a lid is formed having a flanged edge, the inner portion of which is bevelled, due to the angular face 15 referred to.

In order to provide a space into which the cover may set down over the edge of the body portion 13, I provide in the latter, a step-like groove 16, into the edge of which the lower edge of the cover 12 may fit, the groove 16 being of such width as to allow plenty of room between the inner face 15 of the cover edge and the upper edge 17 of the box, or body portion 13. This will allow the box to be completely covered as at 18 with leather or other suitable covering material and, as shown in Figure 9, will allow plenty of room so that the cover 12 and body portion 13 may be hinged together in any suitable manner as at 19 and will close snugly and accurately, thereby presenting no uneven surfaces and enhancing the appearance of the finished suitcase or box.

In order to brace the corners of the box, I provide corner pieces 20 which, as illustrated in Figure 9, allow for the cutting of the groove 16 at the corner of the box to provide the upstanding portion 17 thereabout and allow slightly more room at the corner of the box than elsewhere, due to the fact that the covering material must be cut and overlapped at this point as is apparent when filling in a space of shorter radius than the length of the material.

The corner of the box lid may be provided with an inset portion 21 which conforms to the shape of the side edge of the cover and which may be glued in place at the tongue and groove corners thereof, so as to brace the same and also to fit securely at the corner of the box at which it is disposed.

It is evident, therefore, that I have provided a box construction in the nature of a suitcase or trunk frame, or in fact for use in any other manner in which the cover is so constructed that when the same is covered with leather or the like, it will snugly fit with and match the body portion of the frame, which has also been covered.

It is evident, also, that I have provided a frame construction which can be made at small cost and which will provide a standardized frame construction which need not be operated upon by machinery or other cutting means to fit the same accurately together after it has been partially completed.

While I have illustrated and described my invention with some degree of particularity, I realize that in practice various alterations therein may be made. I therefore reserve the right and privilege of changing the form of the details of construction or otherwise altering the arrangement of the correlated parts without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:—

1. The method of manufacturing a suitcase frame which consists in grooving a plurality of side and end members on their interior surface, joining the same together with a top and bottom to provide a closed box, cutting the box at said grooved portions to form a cover and body portion and then grooving the top edge of the body portion so formed, so that the inner surface of the cover edge will be in spaced relation with the top edge of the body.

2. The method of manufacturing a suitcase frame consisting in forming a tapering groove having a relatively long angularly disposed face at the upper edge of a body open at its top and bottom, applying a top to the body, applying a bottom to the body and cutting through at the bottom of said groove, to provide a cover and finally forming a groove in the cut edge of the body to receive therein loosely the cut edge of said cover.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

BONAVENTURE ZERENGA. [L. S.]