Jan. 10, 1956 L. CROZIER 2,729,905

PORTABLE IRONING BOARD

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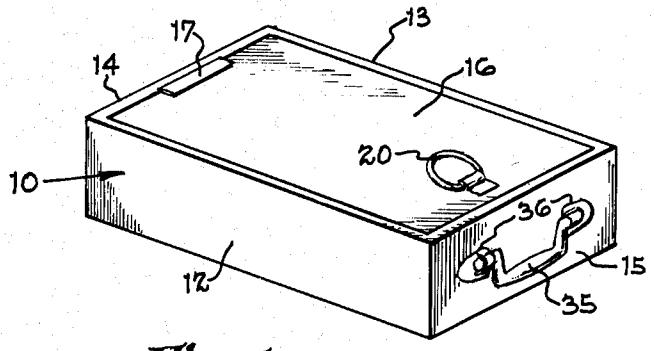

Fig. 1

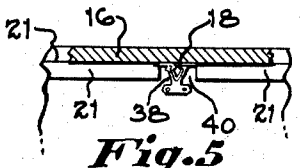

Fig. 5

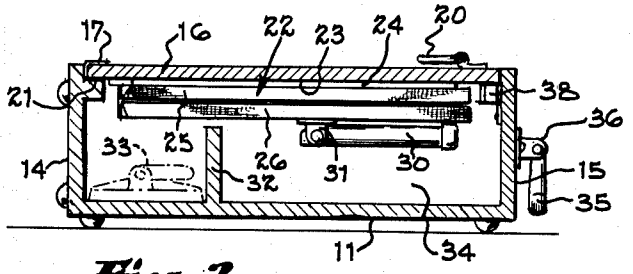

Fig. 2

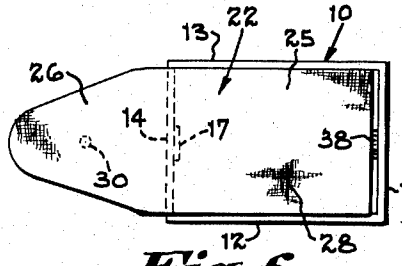

Fig. 6

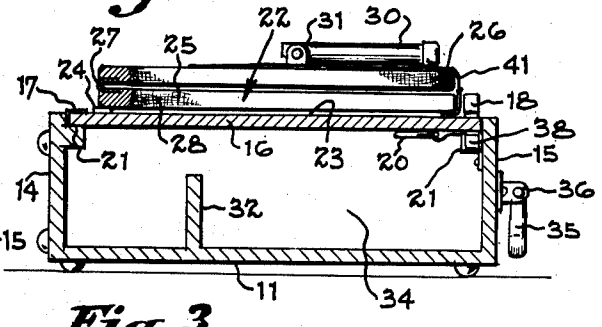

Fig. 3

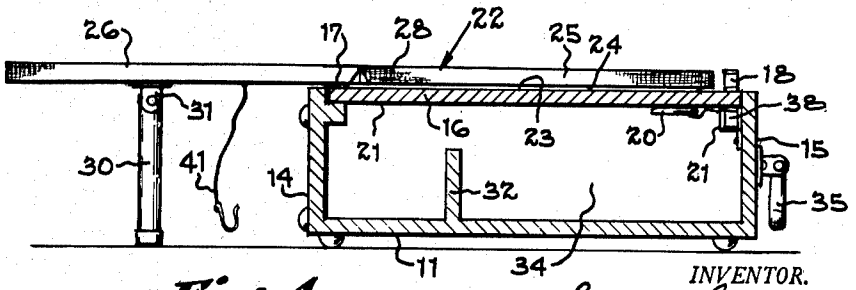

Fig. 4

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PORTABLE IRONING BOARD

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6 Claims. (Cl. 38—112)

This invention relates to portable ironing boards, and is particularly directed to the combination of a portable ironing board and a luggage like casing, by means of which the ironing board may conveniently be transported from place to place.

In recent years, perhaps partially due to the advent of motels located in relatively isolated areas, and also because of the high charges and delayed service of some regular pressing establishments, the practice of travelers pressing their own garments has become increasingly widespread. Several different portable ironing boards have been proposed for use by such travelers. However, none of these boards has proved to be totally satisfactory in use. In general, these portable ironing boards have been of one of two types; first, those which are intended to be carried in a piece of regular luggage along with clothes and other traveling articles; and secondly, those boards which are provided with their own containers.

The first group of portable ironing boards has not met with widespread acceptance primarily because the space which they occupy within the luggage is already at a premium, and the utility of the ironing board is more than offset by the loss in luggage space. Furthermore, considerable difficulty has been experienced in supporting the boards while in use; for it is difficult to mount them on desks or bureaus in such a manner that they will be firmly held in place without marring, or otherwise damaging, the furniture. While some of these boards have been provided with their own supporting structure, this structure has been cumbersome and relatively complex, so that it made the boards bulky and substantially raised their cost.

The portable ironing boards of the second group have also been subject to the disadvantage that the mechanisms provided for supporting the ironing board in the use position are relatively complex, and consequently the boards are quite expensive to produce. Furthermore, the ironing board and its supports occupy almost the entire area within the casing, leaving no room for the iron and other equipment needed for pressing.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a portable ironing board and casing, into which the ironing board may be placed for carrying it from place to place. The casing is very compact, nevertheless, when the ironing board is folded and placed in the casing there is considerable storage space left for any of the small traveling irons now being produced, as well as all of the other accessories employed in ironing such as pressing cloths, sprinklers, extension cords and the like.

One of the principal advantages of the present construction is that the casing itself is arranged to support the ironing board in the ironing position. Thus, all of the complicated mounting structures heretofore employed are eliminated. As a result, the ironing board and casing are not only extremely economical to produce, but there is no supporting mechanism to take up room within

the casing which can otherwise advantageously be used for the storage of ironing accessories.

More specifically, the present invention is predicated upon the concept of providing a casing of generally rectangular cross section including a removable lid; a foldable ironing board is mounted directly on the underside of the lid. The lid is recessed between the side and end walls of the casing and a support, preferably in the form of a narrow ledge mounted on the inner surface of the side or end walls, is provided for holding the lid flush with the edges of the walls. The lid is adapted to be removed and replaced within the casing in an inverted position in which the ironing board is exposed, the supporting ledge again being effective to hold the lid within the case.

For traveling purposes, the lid is placed in its normal position, and the foldable ironing board, mounted upon the underside of the lid, is completely enclosed within the casing. When it is desired to use the board, the lid is removed and replaced within the casing in its inverted position, exposing the ironing board. The board is constructed in two sections, the first being secured directly to the lid, the other section being hinged to the first. After the lid is inverted, the hinged section is swung outwardly to provide an over-hanging, or protruding, surface. This surface, as will readily be appreciated, greatly facilitates the ironing of skirts, sleeves, and other articles of clothing.

One of the chief advantages of an ironing board and casing constructed in accordance with this invention is that there are no legs or other bracing mechanisms needed to support the ironing board in its use position; rather the casing itself supports the board. As a result, the ironing board and casing are of an extremely simple construction, and consequently can be manufactured very inexpensively.

A further advantage of this construction resides in the fact that when the lid is closed, and the board is in its transportation position, the two hinged ironing board portions lie flat against the lid. There are no supporting members extending back and forth within the casing; and consequently, considerable space is available for carrying a portable iron and other articles for use in conjunction with it.

These and other advantages will be apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description of the drawings showing a preferred embodiment of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable ironing board and casing constructed in accordance with this invention.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal cross sectional view of the ironing board showing the manner in which the foldable board fits within the casing.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view, similar to Figure 2, showing the lid in its inverted position in the casing prior to the extension of the board.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 showing the ironing board in its extended position.

Figure 5 is a detailed view of one form of clip arrangement for releasably securing the lid.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of the ironing board.

Figure 1 shows a preferred embodiment of a portable ironing board and casing constructed in accordance with this invention. As shown, casing **10** is rectangular in cross section, and generally resembles an ordinary piece of personal luggage. The casing is preferably constructed of a lightweight material such as plastic, aluminum, or wood, and may be covered with leather or other material to enhance its appearance; it includes a bottom **11**, sides **12** and **13**, and ends **14** and **15**.

A lid **16**, preferably formed on the largest face of the casing, is recessed within the confines of the side and end walls, and is preferably positioned so that its outer surface lies flush with the top edges of the walls. One end of the lid is held in place by means of lip **17** which is mounted on end wall **14** and overlies the lid. The other end of the lid is releasably held in place by means of a suitable clip arrangement **18** disposed at the opposite end of the casing. The clip arrangement and lip construction will be described in greater detail below. A finger ring **20**, or other suitable member, is provided for lifting the lid from the casing. As best shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4, the casing is provided with a plurality of lid supporting members for example, ledges **21** disposed along the interior of the two end walls at points spaced downwardly from their upper edges. Ledges **21** engage marginal portions of the lid both in its closed position shown in Figures 1 and 2, and in the inverted position of Figures 3, 4 and 6. Obviously, other support members could be used in place of the two ledges; for instance a plurality of angle brackets could be secured to the inner walls of the casing, and provided with arms extending inwardly at points spaced downwardly from the upper edges of the walls.

A foldable ironing board **22** is secured to the undersurface **23** of the lid **16** in any suitable manner, such as by bolting or gluing, and is preferably spaced from the lid by means of a sheet of insulating material **24**, in the form of a strip or asbestos, fiber board, or the like.

The ironing board **22** is constituted by two sections, a main section **25**, and an extension section **26**, which are hinged together at their juxtaposed edges. Each section is preferably constructed of a lightweight material such as plywood or a perforated metal, and is provided with suitable padding and a cloth covering **28**. The precise details of the padding and covering constitute no part of the present invention. It will suffice here to say that the cloth covering is held in place over the board sections in any suitable manner, such as by a peripheral elastic band. Main ironing board section **25** is secured directly to the lid, as explained above, and is preferably rectangular in cross section, and of substantially the same size as the lid in order to provide a maximum ironing surface.

Section **26** is hinged to main section **25** by any suitable hinge arrangement, such as heavy leather strap **27** (Figure 3) which is secured to the upper surface of each of the two ironing board sections. Extension section **26** is adapted to pivot about the hinge into a position in which its top surface is coplanar with the top surface of the main section, and the two hinged edges are in abutment to form a continuous ironing surface. Suitable means are provided for holding the two ironing board sections in this coplanar relationship. As shown, the means provided include a foot **30** pivotally secured to the underside of extension section **26** by means of bracket **31**. Other support means could be provided if desired, for example, a sliding shelf could be secured to the lid in such a manner that when section **26** is pivoted outwardly, the shelf is pulled outwardly into engagement with the undersurface of the extension section. Preferably, extension section **26** is tapered to facilitate the ironing of shirt sleeves, and the like.

The preferred embodiment of the casing **10**, shown in the drawings, includes a transverse wall **32** extending across the interior of the casing, and terminating at a point spaced downwardly from the upper edges of the casing walls, sufficiently far to accommodate the ironing board when the lid is in the closed position. Wall **32** defines a compartment of a size sufficient to accommodate a folding flat iron **33** shown in dotted lines in Figure 2. The wall also forms a second compartment **34** for storing accessories such as pressing cloths, extension cords, and the like.

The casing is also preferably provided with a conventional handle **35** secured to end wall **15** by means of

brackets **36**. End wall **15** also carries resilient clip **18**, adapted for engagement with a cooperating member **38** carried on the undersurface of the lid. A suitable opening **40** is provided in ledge **21** to permit the engagement of these parts when the lid is closed. This particular clip construction constitutes no part of the present invention and any other suitable means for releasably securing the lid to end member **15** can be employed. The opposite end of the lid is held in place by means of lip **17** which is preferably a right-angled member including a portion secured to the inner surface of end wall **14**, and an inwardly extending portion spaced upwardly from ledge **21** a sufficient distance to accommodate lid **16**.

When it is desired to transport the ironing board from place to place, an iron **33** is placed within the compartment defined by wall **32**, and the other necessary articles are placed within chamber **34**. One end of the lid is then inserted between the upper end of the ledge, and lip **17** and bracket **38** is snapped into engagement with resilient clip **18**. If desired, the hinge portion of the ironing board may be held in the position in which it is folded back over main section **25** by means of a cord and hook arrangement **41**, the cord being fastened to the undersurface of section **26**, and the hook being adapted to engage one end of section **25**.

When it is desired to use the board, finger ring **20** is grasped, releasing clip **18**, and the lid is slid free from engagement with lip **17**. The board is then removed from the casing and inverted. Next, one end of the lid is again inserted between ledge **21** and lip **17**, and the remaining portion of the lid dropped into contact with the ledge associated with the opposite wall. This position is shown in Figure 3. Finally, the extension section **26** is pivoted outwardly about the hinge, and leg **30** is rotated at right angles to the lid into a position in which it is adapted to engage the table or other support surface.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that many minor modifications can be made within the scope of this invention. For example, it is contemplated that metallic hinges can be employed in lieu of the leather strap, various other clips can be used, and different means can be provided for supporting the extension section in the ironing position.

Having described my invention I claim:

1. The combination of a portable ironing board and a casing, said casing being of substantially rectangular cross section and including a bottom, side walls and end walls upstanding from the bottom and having upper edges, a rectangular lid including an undersurface, said lid being configurated so as to be recessible within said side and end walls, support members secured to the inner surface of at least two of said walls and including support surfaces extending inwardly from said walls, said support surfaces being spaced downwardly from the upper edges of said walls and being adapted for engagement with peripheral portions of said lid, a foldable ironing board including a main section secured to the undersurface of said lid and an extension section hinged to said main section, said lid being adapted to be supported in an inverted position by said support members, and when said lid is inverted said extension section being adapted to be pivoted outwardly into coplanar relationship with the main section, means associated with said casing for releasably securing said lid in its recessed position.

2. The combination of a portable ironing board and a casing, said casing being of substantially rectangular cross section and including a bottom, side walls and end walls upstanding from the bottom and having upper edges, a rectangular lid including an undersurface, said lid being configurated so as to be recessible within said side and end walls, support members secured to the inner surface of at least two of said walls and including support surfaces extending inwardly from said walls, said support surfaces being spaced downwardly from the upper edges of said walls and being adapted for engagement with peripheral

portions of said lid, a foldable ironing board including a main section secured to the undersurface of said lid and an extension section hinged to said main section, said lid being adapted to be supported in an inverted position by said support members and when said lid is inverted said extension section being adapted to be pivoted outwardly into coplanar relationship with the main section, means associated with said casing for releasably securing said lid in its recessed position, and means for releasably maintaining said extension section in coplanar relationship with said main section.

3. The combination of a portable ironing board and a casing, said casing being of substantially rectangular cross section and including a bottom, side walls and end walls upstanding from the bottom and having upper edges, a rectangular lid including an undersurface, said lid being configurated so as to be recessible within said side and end walls, support members secured to the inner surface of at least two of said walls and including support surfaces extending inwardly from said walls, said support surfaces being spaced downwardly from the upper edges of said walls and being adapted for engagement with peripheral portions of said lid, a foldable ironing board including a main section secured to the under-surface of said lid and an extension section hinged to said main section, said lid being adapted to be supported in an inverted position by said support members and when said lid is inverted said extension section being adapted to be pivoted outwardly into coplanar relationship with the main section, means for securing said lid in said recessed position, said means comprising a lip associated with one wall of said casing and disposed to overlie said lid when said lid is in its recessed position, and means associated with a wall of said casing remote from said lip, for releasable engagement with said lid.

4. The combination of a portable ironing board and a casing, said casing being of substantially rectangular cross section, and including a bottom, side walls, and end walls, a rectangular lid, said lid being configurated so as to cooperate with said side and end walls to enclose said casing, said lid including an undersurface normally disposed within said casing, said lid being removable from said casing and being adapted for replacement in an inverted position in which said undersurface is exposed, support members disposed within said casing and engageable with peripheral portions of said lid for supporting said lid within said casing, a foldable ironing board including a main section secured to the undersurface of said lid, an extension section hinged to said main section, and adapted to be pivoted outwardly into coplanar relationship with the main section when said lid is mounted in said casing in an inverted position, means associated with said casing for releasably securing said lid in place.

5. The combination of a portable ironing board and a casing, said casing being of substantially rectangular cross section, and including a bottom, side walls, and end walls, a rectangular lid, said lid being configurated so as to cooperate with said side and end walls to enclose said casing, said lid including an undersurface normally disposed within said casing, said lid being removable from said casing and being adapted for replacement in an inverted position in which said undersurface is exposed, support members disposed within said casing and engageable with peripheral portions of said lid for supporting said lid within said casing, a foldable ironing board including a main section secured to the undersurface of said lid, an extension section hinged to said main section, and adapted to be pivoted outwardly into coplanar relationship with the main section when said lid is mounted in said casing in an inverted position, means associated with said casing for releasably securing said lid in place, and means for supporting said extension section in said coplanar relationship with said main section.

6. The combination of a portable ironing board and a casing, said casing being of substantially rectangular cross section, and including a bottom, side walls, and end walls, a rectangular lid, said lid being adapted for engagement with said side and end walls to enclose said casing, said lid including an undersurface normally disposed within said casing, said lid being removable from engagement with said walls, and being adapted for reengagement with said walls in an inverted position in which said undersurface is exposed, support members disposed within said casing and engageable with peripheral portions of said lid for supporting said lid within said casing, a foldable ironing board including a main section secured to the undersurface of said lid, an extension section hinged to said main section, and adapted to be pivoted outwardly into coplanar relationship with the main section when said lid is mounted in said casing in an inverted position, means for securing said lid in engagement with said walls, said means comprising a lip associated with one wall of said casing and disposed to overlie said lid when said lid is in engagement with said walls, and means associated with a wall of said casing remote from said lip for releasable engagement with said lid.

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