United States Patent [19]

Zeamer

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[54] **TYPEWRITER CASE**

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[73] Assignee: **SCM Corporation,** New York, N.Y.

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **312/208,** 312/244

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47b 21/00,** A47b 89/00

[58] **Field of Search** 312/208; 206/DIG. 27, 1; 220/9; 150/0.5, 52.5, 52.8, 52.1; 190/57

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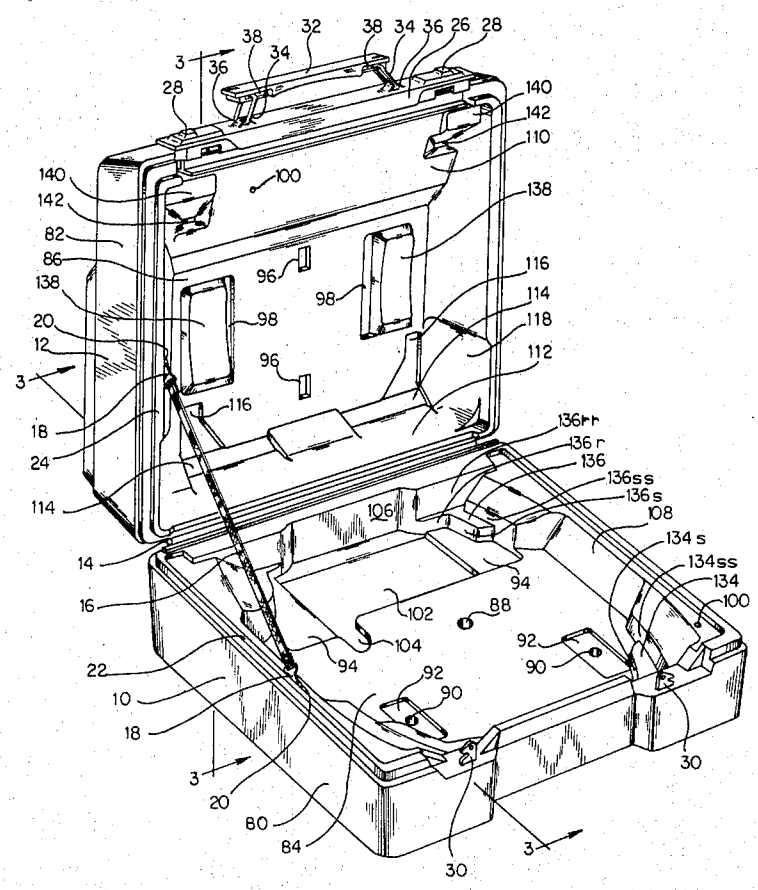
Primary Examiner—Paul R. Gilliam

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—John A. Taylor

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A double-walled thermoplastic case for a typewriter is provided that prevents damage to the typewriter during transportation and storage. The inner walls of the cover and base are formed to resiliently clamp the typewriter between them. The resilient faces of steps projecting from the inner wall of the base position the typewriter and restrain it against lateral movement and the resilient faces of the inner wall above the steps restrain the typewriter against lateral movement if the steps should be overridden. Resilient feet depending from the inner wall of the cover restrain the keyboard of the typewriter against upward movement and depressions in the inner wall that are nearly in contact with the outer wall resiliently limit the upward movement permitted by the depending feet. In a second embodiment of the invention that is used with a typewriter having a rugged keyboard, the depressions in the inner wall are in contact with the outer wall.

7 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



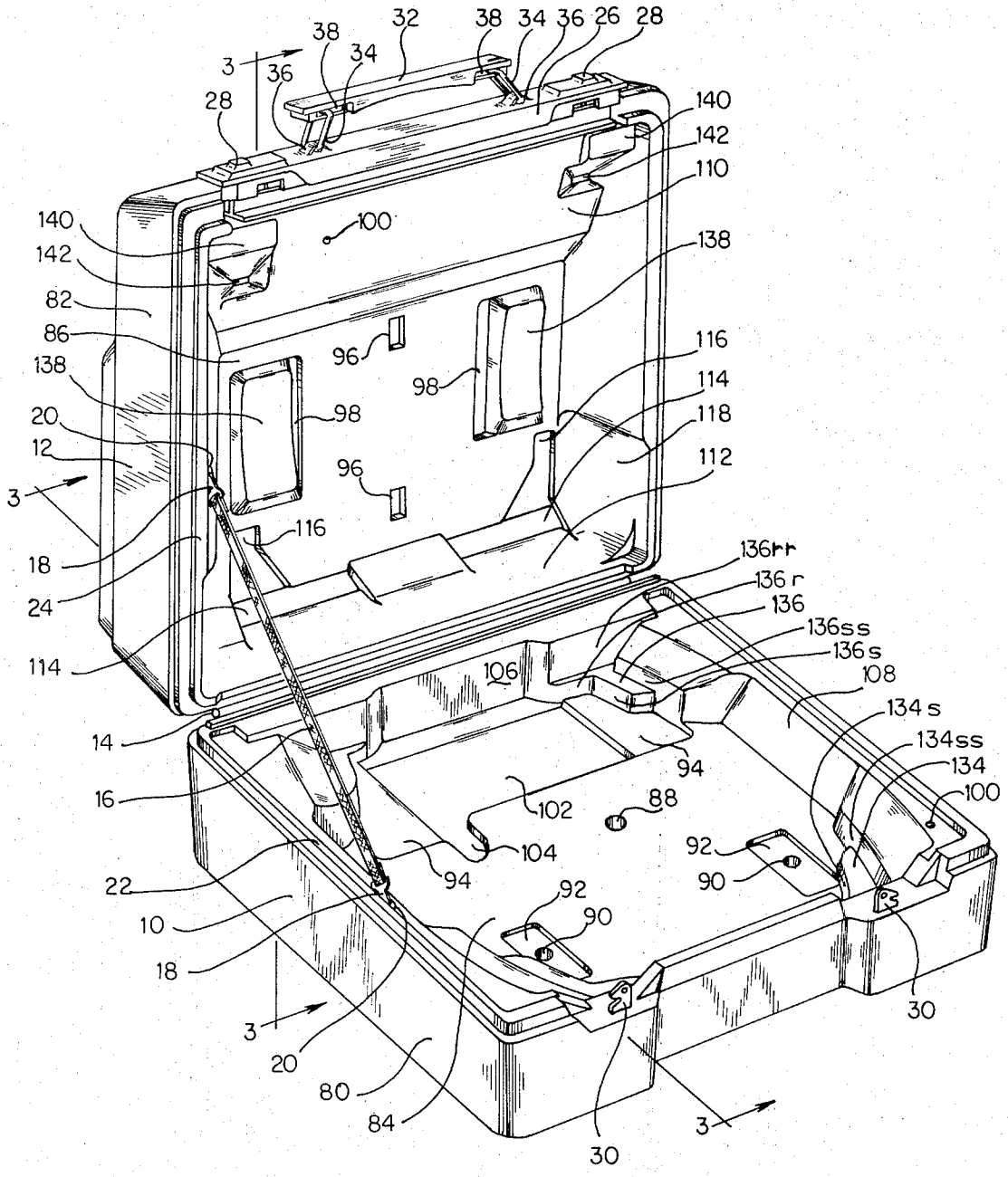

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FIG 1

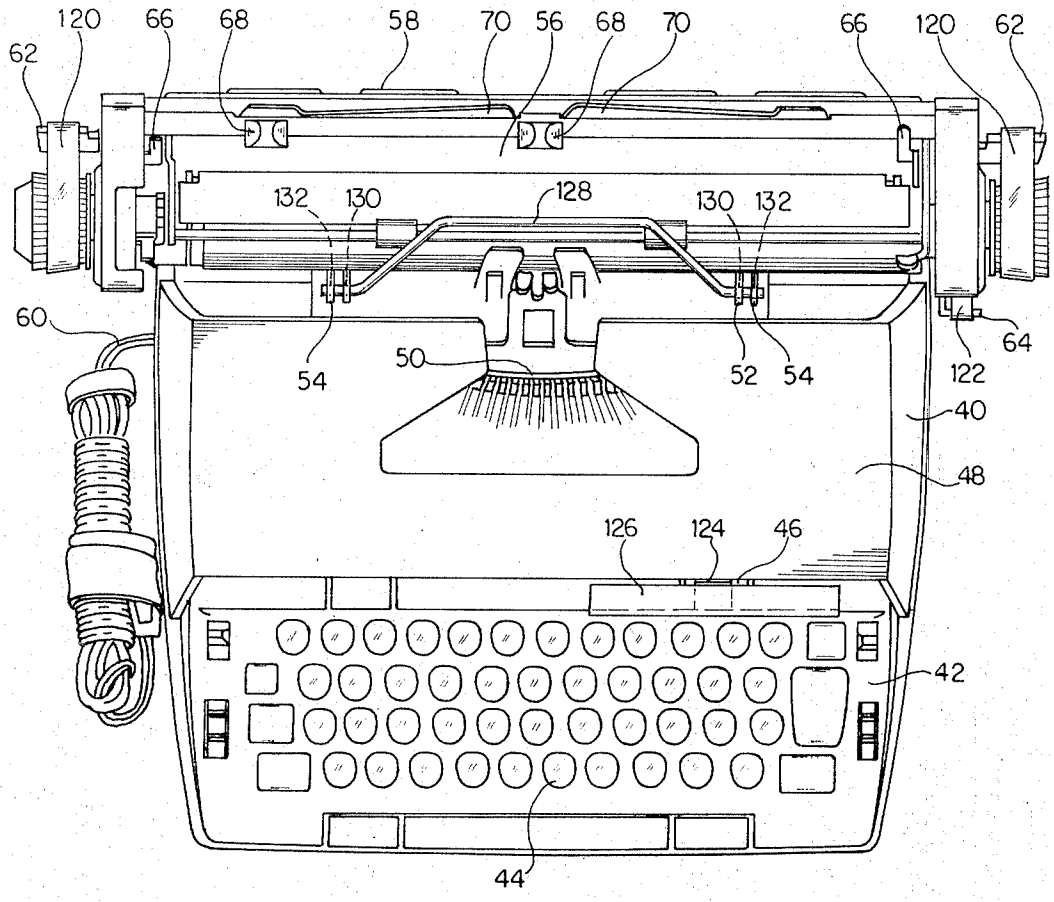

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Fig 2

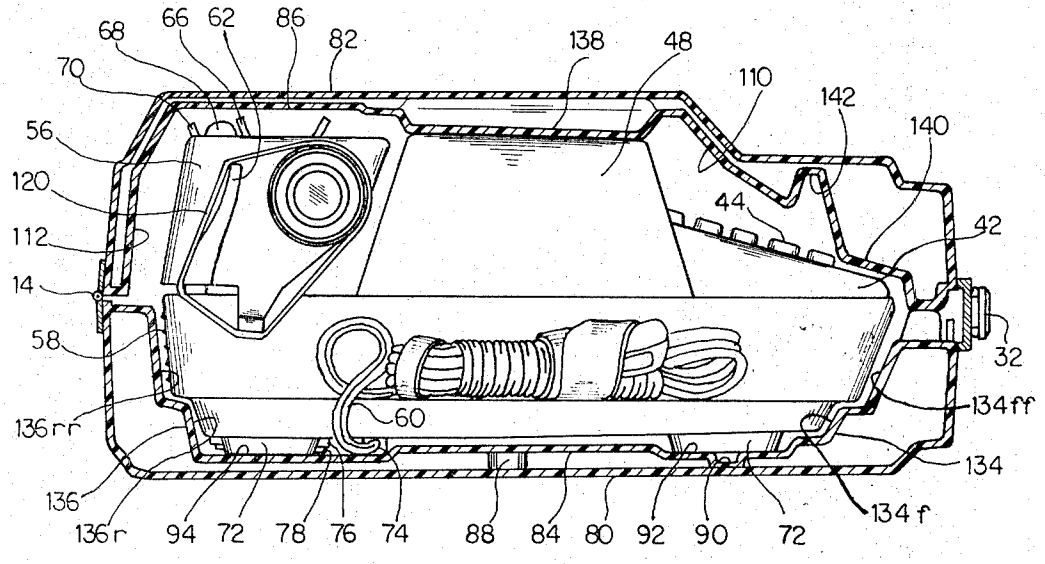

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Fig 3

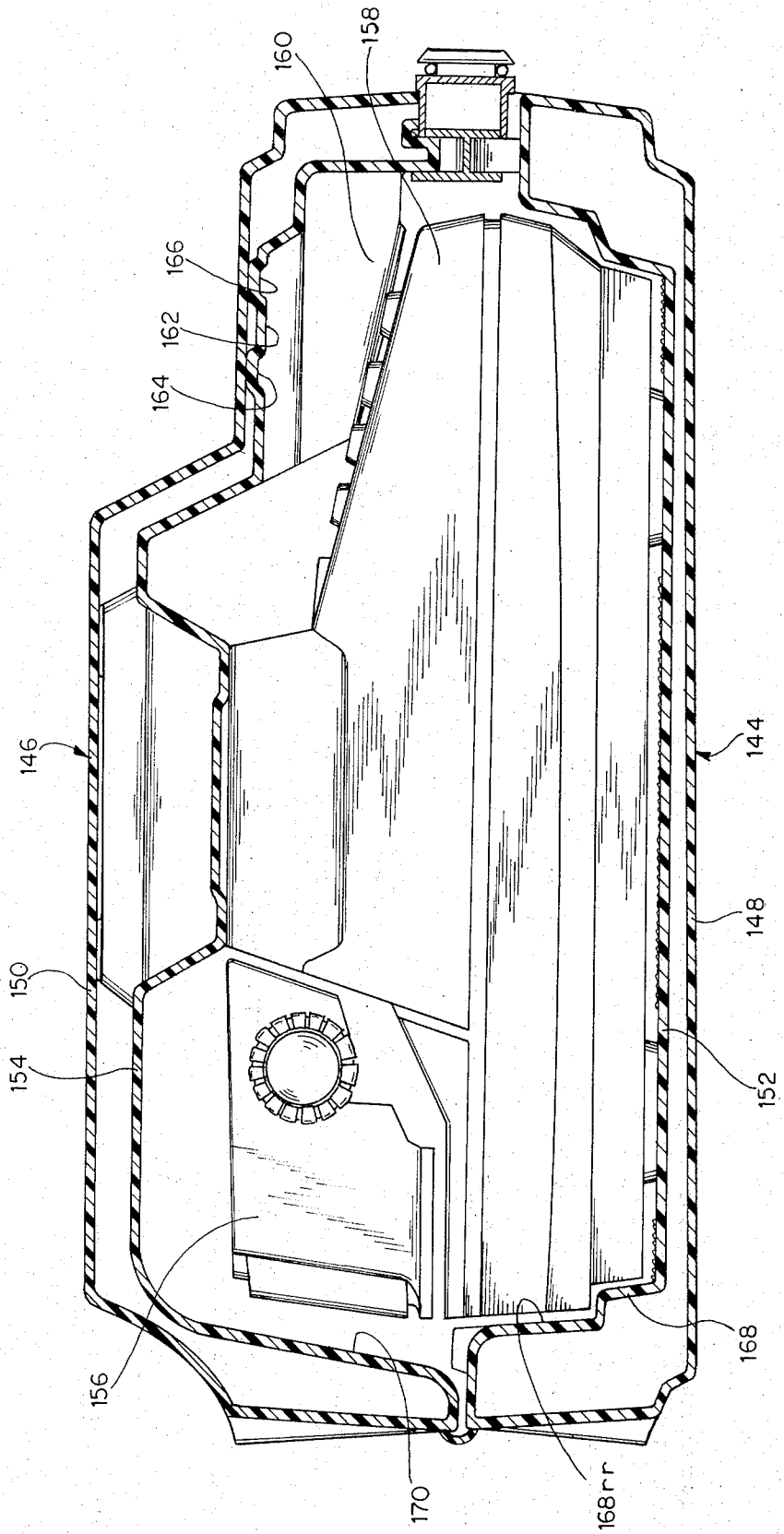


FIG 4

TYPEWRITER CASE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to typewriter cases and more particularly to an improved blow-molded double-walled thermoplastic carrying case for a typewriter.

2. Description of the Prior Art

A molded thermoplastic carrying case in which an article is resiliently held by a single inner wall is known, but it is not for a typewriter. A typewriter which is a very complex and delicately adjusted piece of machinery, requires special packing in order to survive the hazards of transportation and storage. All of the prior thermoplastic carrying cases for typewriters require special packing material inside the carrying case and a great thickness of packing material inside the shipping container in order for the typewriter to have a reasonable chance of surviving the hazards of shipping and storage. Once received by the consumer, the packing material is usually discarded and the typewriter, unprotected in its carrying case, might be subjected to almost any conceivable hazard. Prior carrying cases have not been noted for their ability to protect typewriters when the carrying cases are dropped. Prior carrying cases have, however, been noted for quickly assuming a beat-up appearance.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is, therefore, a primary object of the invention to provide a thermoplastic case for a typewriter that will prevent the typewriter from being damaged during shipping, storage, and consumer use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a typewriter case that itself will not be damaged during shipping, storage, and consumer use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a typewriter case that meets the preceding objects without any special packing material or any special holding fixtures inside the case and with only a minimal amount of packing material inside a shipping container which consequently can be very compact.

Another object of the invention is to provide a thermoplastic typewriter case that meets the preceding objects under extreme conditions of vibration, shock, compression, temperature, and corrosion and is still relatively inexpensive.

In order to accomplish the objects of the invention, the invention includes a blow-molded double-walled thermoplastic carrying case for a typewriter in which the typewriter is resiliently clamped between the inner walls of the cover and base of the carrying case. The typewriter is positioned in the carrying case and restrained against lateral movement by the resilient faces of steps projecting from the inner wall of the base. If the steps should be overridden as when the carrying case is dropped, the resilient faces of the inner wall above the steps will restrain the typewriter against further lateral movement while helping to absorb the shock. The faces of the inner wall above the steps at the rear of the typewriter are set back only slightly so that the carriage of the typewriter will still clear the inner wall of the cover if the rear of the typewriter should override the rear steps during an extreme shock.

Even with the typewriter firmly clamped between the inner walls of the cover and base of the carrying case and restrained against lateral movement, the keyboard of the typewriter still tends to move upward during an extreme shock. Therefore, resilient feet are formed depending from the inner wall of the cover to nearly contact the front corners of the keyboard to restrain the keyboard against upward movement. Depressions are formed in the inner wall nearly in contact with the outer wall to limit the upward movement permitted by the depending feet. The depressions act as resilient stops to help absorb shock. The inner walls of the cover and base contact the outer walls at central locations in order to increase the rigidity of the carrying case and to maintain the exterior contours.

In a second embodiment of the invention that is used with a typewriter having a rugged keyboard, the depressions in the inner wall of the cover can be in contact with the outer wall to limit the upward movement permitted by the depending feet. In addition, it has been found that the inner wall of the base in the second embodiment does not have to contact the outer wall at a central location in order to provide rigidity and to maintain the exterior contours. Also, in the second embodiment, the faces of the inner wall above the steps at the rear of the typewriter can be set back farther because the carriage of the typewriter for the second embodiment will still clear the inner wall of the cover when the rear of the typewriter contacts the faces of the inner wall above the steps during an extreme shock.

Other objects and a fuller understanding of the invention can be had by referring to the description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an open typewriter carrying case embodying the invention and showing the insides of the base and the cover.

FIG. **2** is a schematic top plan view of a typewriter showing various features that interact with the carrying case.

FIG. **3** is a section view of the closed carrying case taken substantially along the lines **3—3** in FIG. **1** and a left end elevation view of the typewriter inside the carrying case.

FIG. **4** is a view similar to FIG. **3**, but of a second embodiment of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference to FIG. **1** of the drawings, the invention is shown embodied in a portable carrying case for a typewriter. The carrying case is composed of a thermoplastic material such as polyethylene and is formed by a blow-molding process.

The carrying case includes a base **10** and a cover **12**. The cover is connected to the base by a hinge **14** which can be formed integrally with the cover and base during the blow-molding process or can be a separate hinge which is attached to the cover and base after they are formed. The opening extent of the cover is limited by a strap **16** composed of a fabric which permits it to collapse when the case is closed. The strap has clamps **18** on each end that hook into holes **20** in the base and cover. One or both of the clamps can be removed from the holes in the base and cover if it is desired to open the carrying case flat. Meshing walls **22** and **24** are

formed around the edges of the base and the cover to prevent dust from entering the carrying case when it is closed.

In order to latch and lock the carrying case, and to make it portable, a bar **26** is connected to the front edge of the cover. The bar contains latches **38** near each end that mate with corresponding hooks **30** connected to the front edge of the base of the carrying case. The latches can be locked and can be of any standard construction. To make the carrying case easily portable, a handle **32** is connected to the top of the bar. The handle is connected to the top of the bar by rings **34** at each end which are pivotally connected to lugs **36** on the top of the bar. The rings slide in slots **38** in the handle so that the handle can lie flat against the top of the carrying case when not in use. The flat-lying handle makes the carrying case more compact in a shipping container.

The typewriter used with the invention, and shown schematically in FIG. **2,** is a standard Smith-Corona Electra **220** electric typewriter. The typewriter includes a casing **40,** a keyboard **42** at the front of the casing, keys **44** on the keyboard including a tabulator clear key **46,** a top deck **48** on the top of the casing, a typebar segment **50** in the casing mounted on a plate **52,** shift ball races **54** at the sides of the typebar segment plate, a carriage **56** on the rear of the casing, air vents **58** at the rear of the casing to cool the motor, which is not shown, and a power cord **60** to the motor. Also included are various levers to operate the carriage and to control paper inserted into the carriage. The levers include carriage release levers **62** at each end of the carriage, a carriage lock lever **64** at the right end of the carriage, several levers **66** on the top of the carriage near the ends, two margin release tabs **68** at the rear of the carriage, and two paper support levers **70** at the rear of the carriage. Several additional parts of the typewriter are shown only in FIG. **3.** The additional parts include feet **72** on thebottom of the casing of which only the left feet are shown, a plug **74** on the bottom of the casing where the power cord enters the casing, and a motor cover **76** with air vents **78** on the bottom of the casing.

Returning to FIG. **1,** both the base and the cover of the carrying case are of double-walled construction which is an inherent capability of the blow-molding process. Both have outer walls **80** and **82** and inner walls **84** and **86** which can be thinner than the outer walls. The outer and inner walls are integral with each other which is another inherent feature of the blow-molding process. Besides the integral relationships of the outer and inner walls at the lips of the base and cover, the inner walls contact the outer walls at several intermediate locations. In the base, there is a depression in the form of a small circular well **88** formed in the middle of the inner wall and depressions in the form of small circular wells **90** formed in depressions **92** in the inner wall for the front feet of the typewriter. There are also depressions **94** formed in the inner wall for the rear feet of the typewriter. In the cover, there are depressions in the form of two short trenches **96** formed in the middle of the inner wall and depressions in the form of two long trenches **98** formed toward the sides. All of the three wells in the base and the four trenches in the cover have their bottoms in contact with the inner surfaces of the outer walls. The bottoms of the wells and trenches may just rest against the inner surfaces of the outer walls or may be lightly fused to the outer walls. Full welds are not used because they tend to be visible on the outer surfaces of the outer walls as scars. The wells and trenches provide rigidity for the carrying case and maintain the exterior contours of the outer walls which are slightly convex. The spaces between the outer and inner walls are open to the air through the holes **20** for the strap **16** which limits the opening extent of the cover and holes **100** in the base and the cover formed by air injection needles of the blow-molding process. The air injection hole in the base is in the right front corner of the inner wall and the air injection hole in the cover is in the front of the inner wall.

A number of clearance features for the typewriter are formed in the inner walls of the base and cover. In the base, between the depressions **94** for the rear feet of the typewriter, there is a step down to a further depression **102** to provide clearance for circulation of air to the motor through the air vents **78** in the motor cover on the bottom of the typewriter. A J-shaped depression **104** is formed at the left front end of the depression **102** for the plug **74** where the power cord enters the typewriter. Behind the depression for the motor cover, a setback **106** is formed in the vertical portion of the inner wall to provide clearance for circulation of air to the motor through the air vents **58** in the rear of the typewriter. It should be noted that the typewriter can be operated while in the carrying case. In order to conveniently remove the typewriter from the carrying case, setbacks **108** are formed in the inner wall of the base at the sides of the typewriter to provide hand clearances so that the typewriter can be easily lifted out of the carrying case. The left setback **108** also serves as a storage compartment for the power cord of the typewriter when the power cord is rolled up.

In the cover, the front portion **110** of the inner wall is contoured to clear the keys and keyboard of the typewriter and the rear vertical portion **112** of the inner wall is set back far enough so that the carriage of the typewriter will clear it. Depressions **114** are formed above the rear vertical portion of the inner wall to clear the paper support levers and the margin release tabs of the typewriter and other depressions **116** are formed in the inner wall to clear the levers on the top of the carriage near the ends. Finally, setbacks **118** are formed in the vertical side portions of the inner wall to clear the ends of the carriage which is set to ride free during shipment by taping the carriage release levers **62** at the ends of the carriage into release positions with tape **120** as shown in FIG. **2,** taping the carriage lock lever **64** at the right end of the carriage into an unlocked position with tape **122** which can be an extension of the tape **120,** and taping the tabulator clear key **46** down with a small block **124** and tape **126.** Also for shipment, the typebar segment **50** is immobilized in an intermediate position with a wire **128** through holes **130** in the side of the typebar segment plate **52** and holes **132** in the shaft ball races **54.**

Returning to FIG. **1,** in order to position the typewriter in the carrying case and to restrain it against lateral movement, L-shaped steps **134** and **136** are formed to project from the inner wall of the base at the bottom corners of the typewriter. The steps have two lower faces **134***f*, **134***s*, **136***s*, and **136***r* corresponding to the two intersecting sides of the typewriter at each corner. The faces of the steps act as resilient shock ab-

sorbers to position and protect the typewriter. Upper faces of the steps in the form of faces **134***ff*, **134***ss*, **136***ss*, and **136***rr* of the inner wall above the steps act as secondary shock absorbers should the typewriter override the steps by deforming the steps or by moving over the steps as during an extreme shock caused if the carrying case is dropped. The bottom edges of the typewriter might deform the steps or pass over the top of the steps during an extreme shock by causing other portions of the carrying case to expand or deform temporarily. Faces **134***f* and **134***ff* are shown only in FIG. **3.** The faces **136***rr* of the inner wall above the steps at the rear of the typewriter are set back only slightly so that the carriage of the typewriter will still clear the rear vertical portion **112** of the inner wall of the cover if the steps are overridden during an extreme shock.

In order to clamp the typewriter in place in the carrying case between the inner walls of the cover and base, shoulders **138** are formed depending from the inner wall of the cover. The shoulders are contoured to mate with and press against the top deck **48** of the typewriter when the carrying case is closed. The long trenches **98** that contact the outer wall beside the shoulders provide rigidity. Because the keyboard of the typewriter tends to move upward during an extreme shock to the carrying case, feet **140** are formed depending from the inner wall of the cover to nearly contact the front corners of the keyboard. The depending feet resiliently prevent the keyboard from moving upward. To the rear of the depending feet, depressions in the form of deep trenches **142** are formed in the inner wall. The bottoms of the deep trenches nearly contact the inner surface of the outer wall and act as resilient stops for the resilient movement permitted by the depending feet.

A second embodiment of the invention is shown in FIG. **4.** The second embodiment of the invention is substantially the same as the first embodiment just described except as hereinafter noted.

As in the first embodiment, the carrying case includes a base **144** and a cover **146.** Both the base and the cover are of double-walled construction with outer walls **148** and **150** and inner walls **152** and **154.** Shown inside the carrying case is a Smith-Corona Coronamatic **2200** electric typewriter. The typewriter has a carriage **156** and a rugged keyboard **158.**

As in the first embodiment of the invention, feet **160** are formed depending from the inner wall of the cover to nearly contact the front corners of the keyboard of the typewriter. The depending feet come to within approximately one-tenth of an inch of the keyboard to resiliently prevent the keyboard from moving upward during a shock to the carrying case. Adjacent to the medial sides of the depending feet **160,** depressions in the form of trenches **162** are formed in the inner wall. In contrast to the first embodiment, the trenches have further depressions **164** and **166** that are in contact with or lightly fused to the inner surface of the outer wall **154.** The trenches can be in contact with the outer wall because of the rugged keyboard of the typewriter. The rugged keyboard does not require a space between the bottom of each trench and the outer wall to protect the keyboard as in the first embodiment.

In addition, it has been found that the inner wall **148** of the base does not have to contact the outer wall at a central location in order to provide rigidity and to maintain the exterior contours in the second embodiment. Also, in the second embodiment, faces **168***rr* of the inner wall above steps **168** at the rear of the typewriter can be set back farther than in the first embodiment because the carriage of the typewriter for the second embodiment will still clear a rear vertical portion **170** of the inner wall of the cover when the rear of the typewriter contacts the faces **168***rr* of the inner wall above the steps during an extreme shock.

In operation of the first embodiment, for shipment, the carriage release levers **62** and the carriage lock lever **64** are taped into their inoperative positions and the tabulator clear key **46** is taped down so that the carriage can ride freely between the setbacks **118** in the inner wall of the cover for the ends of the carriage as shown in FIG. **2.** There is very little if any space between the ends of the carriage and the inner wall. The right margin release tab **68** can be shifted toward the center of the carriage so that the released carriage will not tend to shift too far to the left and make the typewriter difficult to place in the carrying case. However, it is the setbacks **118** in the inner wall of the cover that limit the lateral movement of the carriage and not the right margin release tab. The only other special precaution that is necessary for shipment is to place the wire **128** in the holes **130** in the typebar segment plate and the holes **132** in the shift ball races to immobilize the typebar segment in an intermediate position. The typewriter can also be placed in a transparent bag to protect it from dust. The carrying case can be packed in a shipping container having only a small thickness of packing material making the shipping container more compact.

The typewriter is placed in the base of the carrying case with the corners of the typewriter contacting the steps **134** and **136** projecting from the inner wall of the base. The rolled up power cord is stored in the left setback **108** that provides hand clearance for placing the typewriter in the carrying case. With reference to FIG. **3,** when the carrying case is closed, the shoulders **138** depending from the inner wall of the cover press against the top deck **48** of the typewriter to resiliently clamp the typewriter between the inner walls of the cover and base. The feet **140,** also depending from the inner wall of the cover, nearly contact the front corners of the keyboard to prevent the keyboard from moving upward.

As can be seen from FIG. **3,** the typewriter is very firmly clamped in the carrying case and any part of the typewriter that might move is resiliently restrained in order to absorb shock. The shoulders **138** depending from the inner wall of the cover resiliently clamp the typewriter between the inner walls of the cover and base. The faces **134***f*, **134***s*, **136***s*, and **136***r* of the steps projecting from the inner wall of the base position the typewriter in the carrying case and absorb any shock to the carrying case, and the feet **140** depending from the inner wall of the cover prevent the keyboard of the typewriter from moving upward. The setbacks **118** in the inner wall of the cover at the ends of the carriage protect the freely riding carriage from damage.

However, the typewriter is a relatively heavy machine and during an extreme shock as might occur if the carrying case is dropped, the corners of the typewriter can override the steps **134** and **136** projecting from the inner wall of the base by deforming the steps or by causing other portions of the carrying case to expand or deform temporarily. That is when the faces **134***ff*, **134***ss*, **136***ss*, and **136***rr* of the inner wall above

the steps come into action to act as a backup for the steps in absorbing the shock. As mentioned previously, the faces **136***rr* of the rear inner wall above the steps at the rear of the typewriter are only set back slightly so that the carriage of the typewriter will still clear the rear vertical portion **112** of the inner wall of the cover when the rear of the typewriter contacts the faces **136***rr* of the rear inner wall above the steps. The deep trenches **142** in the inner wall of the cover to the rear of the depending feet **140** also come into action during an extreme shock to limit the resilient upward movement of the keyboard permitted by the depending feet. During an extreme shock, the bottom of the deep trenches **142,** which nearly contact the inner surface of the outer wall, actually do come in contact with the outer wall. The outer wall acts as a secondary shock absorber to limit the resilient movement of the depending feet **140** and thus absorb shock which could harm the keyboard of the typewriter. The small circular wells **88** and **90** in the inner wall of the base and the trenches **96** and **98** in the inner wall of the cover that contact the inner surfaces of the outer walls provide rigidity for the carrying case and maintain the exterior contours of the carrying case which are slightly convex.

The operation of the second embodiment of the invention, as shown in FIG. **4,** is substantially the same as the first embodiment just described except that in the second embodiment the trenches **162** beside the depending feet **160** can contact the outer wall **154** because of the rugged keyboard of the typewriter. Also, as previously described, it has been found that the inner wall **148** of the base does not have to contact the outer wall at a central location in order to provide rigidity and to maintain the exterior contours in the second embodiment. In addition, in the second embodiment, the faces **168***rr* of the inner wall above the steps **168** at the rear of the typewriter can be set back farther than in the first embodiment because the carriage of the typewriter for the second embodiment will still clear the vertical portion **170** of the inner wall of the cover when the rear of the typewriter contacts the faces **168***rr* of the inner wall above the steps during an extreme shock.

Carrying cases embodying the invention have been subjected to all kinds of shocks while containing complex and delicately adjusted typewriters such as the Smith-Corona Electra **220.** For example, a carrying case embodying the first embodiment of the invention and a prior steel carrying case, each containing Electra **220** typewriters, were frozen to minus 20° F. for 24 hours. The carrying cases containing the typewriters were then lifted to heights of 30 inches and dropped on a concrete floor. The typewriter in the steel carrying case was damaged while the typewriter in the carrying case embodying the invention was completely unharmed. The carrying case embodying the invention was unharmed as well.

Carrying cases embodying the invention and containing typewriters haVe been subjected to every condition that might reasonably be encountered during shipment, storage, and consumer use such as vibration, dropping, compression, and extreme temperatures from minus 20° to plus 160° F. Both the typewriters and the carrying cases embodying the invention have survived completely unharmed while prior, often more costly, carrying cases have permitted damage to the typewriters and sometimes to their carrying cases as well. In addition, since the carrying case embodying the invention is composed of polyethylene, it is very resistant to corrosion. Thus, a relatively inexpensive typewriter carrying case is provided that will protect a typewriter and the carrying case against damage during shipment, storage, and consumer use without any packing material or holding fixtures inside the carrying case.

Although the invention has been described in its preferred form with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure of the preferred form has been made by way of example and that numerous changes in the details of construction and the combination and arrangement of parts can be resorted to without parting from the spirit and the scope of the invention.

Having thus set forth the nature of the invention, what is claimed is:

1. An improved thermoplastic carrying case for a typewriter having four bottom corners and a top deck, the thermoplastic carrying case having a base with an inner wall and an outer wall, a cover with an inner wall and an outer wall, a hinge between the base and the cover, means for latching the cover to the base, and a handle, wherein the improvement comprises:

a. four L-shaped steps integral with and projecting from the inner wall of the base, the four L-shaped steps having lower faces for mating with the four bottom corners of the typewriter when the typewriter is in the thermoplastic carrying case to resiliently restrain the typewriter against lateral movement if the lower faces should be overridden, and

b. at least one shoulder integral with and depending from the inner wall of the cover for pressing against the top deck of the typewriter when the typewriter is in the thermoplastic carrying case and the cover is closed to resiliently clamp the typewriter between the inner wall of the cover and the inner wall of the base.

2. The thermoplastic carrying case of claim **1,** the typewriter having a keyboard with two front corners, the thermoplastic carrying case further comprising:

c. two feet integral with and depending from the inner wall of the cover for opposing the two front corners of the keyboard of the typewriter when the typewriter is in the thermoplastic carrying case and the cover is closed to resiliently restrain movement of the keyboard toward the cover.

3. The thermoplastic carrying case of claim **2,** further comprising:

d. first depressions formed in the inner wall of the cover adjacent to the feet and nearly contacting the outer wall of the cover to resiliently stop movement of the keyboard toward the cover when the typewriter is in the thermoplastic carrying case and the cover is closed by contacting the outer wall of the cover.

4. The thermoplastic carrying case of claim **3,** in which the first depressions normally contact the outer wall of the cover.

5. The thermoplastic carrying case of claim **3,** further comprising:

e. a second depression formed in the inner wall of the cover adjacent to each shoulder and contacting the outer wall of the cover to increase rigidity of the thermoplastic carrying case.

6. The thermoplastic carrying case of claim **5,** further comprising:

f. at least one, third depression formed in the inner wall of the cover and contacting the outer wall of the cover to increase rigidity of the cover and

g. at least one, fourth depression formed in the inner wall of the base and contacting the outer wall of the base to increase rigidity of the base.

7. The thermoplastic carrying case of claim **6**, the typewriter having a carriage and in which the upper faces of the L-shaped steps at the rear of the thermoplastic carrying case are set back less than the other upper faces of the L-shaped steps so that the carriage of the typewriter will clear the inner wall of the cover when the cover is closed and the typewriter comes into contact with the upper faces of the L-shaped steps at the rear of the thermoplastic carrying case.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,822,083 Dated July 2, 1974

Inventor(s) Aaron C. Zeamer

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

In the specification:

Column 3, line 6, "38" should read --28--.

Column 4, line 59, "shaft" should read --shift--.

In the claims:

Column 8, line 31, after "ment" insert

--and upper faces to resiliently restrain the typewriter against lateral movement--.

Signed and sealed this 19th day of November 1974.

(SEAL)
Attest:

McCOY M. GIBSON JR.
Attesting Officer

C. MARSHALL DANN
Commissioner of Patents

FORM PO-1050 (10-69)

USCOMM-DC 60376-P69
★ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O—366-334.