MEANS FOR PRODUCING CONTAINERS

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The present invention relates to the manufacture of containers, for instance suit cases, portmanteaux made of leather or other material mouldable by stamping or pressing. The improved container according to the invention is characterized by the fact, that it is made of a single piece of material, preferably without any seams. In the case of suit cases or portmanteaux, both the cover and the main body of the container are each made of one single piece of material. The container is manufactured according to the invention by pressing or stamping, a suitable stamping or pressing machine having been designed for the purpose.

Hitherto containers of a similar kind have been made by connecting together the various superficial parts of the container by sewing, gluing, cementing or riveting. Small containers have indeed been made without a seam out of one piece of material, but in such cases only very thin material could be used and some of the superfluous material had to be folded so as to form gussets.

The containers made according to the present invention have the advantage that they are water and dust proof and that all seams or joints are dispensed with. The containers also have very considerable strength and durability, as there is no danger of joints, seams or rivets becoming loose or undone.

Another advantage is the reduction in weight due to the fact, that the lining or reinforcing material may be dispensed with.

Containers made according to the invention may be very easily dyed or painted in their ready condition, particularly by the known spraying process, inasmuch as there are no folds, creases, gaps or seams which may prejudicially affect the uniformity of the material and the paint or dye.

As the manufacture according to the invention may be carried out in one working operation, and the various hitherto usual manipulations such as fitting together of the parts, the sewing, gluing, or cementing, rivetting and finishing are entirely avoided, a great economy in the manufacture and in the working time is attained.

The drawings show by way of example various constructions of containers according to the invention, as well as means for making same.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a seamless case cover or lid,
Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a seamless main case body,
Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the complete suitcase.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a suitcase body with inserted side wall for travelling cases or trunks.
Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a complete trunk provided with reinforcing members.
Fig. 6 shows diagrammatically in sectional elevation means for making a container.
Fig. 7 is a plan view of the device shown in Fig. 6.
Figs. 8 to 10 are perspective views of various constructions of an internal mould or core used in the manufacture of the container.

The containers, cases and like receptacles according to the invention may be provided in the usual manner with fittings, hinges, linings and other parts or ornaments, and they may, if required, be provided with reinforcing members or parts. In some cases, for instance, in the case of very large trunks or cases, one or more of the side walls may be inserted as shown in Fig. 4.

The seamless production of the container parts is carried out by placing suitably softened, full, milled or otherwise prepared leather or other mouldable material upon an outer mould of a size corresponding to the size of the container part to be produced, and by pressing the material by means of a press or stamp into the mould. The container part thus shaped in the mould is then removed from the mould, dried, cut to the required height and if necessary further worked.

A machine suitable for the manufacture of the improved container comprises a core member a which has the internal dimensions and shape of the container to be produced, and an external frame or die b, the internal measures of which correspond to the external measures of the container to be made. The edge c of the external mould should preferably be so shaped as to guide the material during the pressing or stamping operation. The moulding frame b is preferably provided with reinforcing members d which give it the necessary strength and also serve as supports for placing the mould upon a suitably large bearing surface of the table of the press.

The machine is carried out as follows: A suitable softened, milled, full or otherwise prepared piece e of leather or other material is placed upon the mould frame b, which is fixed upon the open table of a slowly operating press. The material is then pressed by the aid of the core a into and through the moulding frame b. During the slow pressing process the material whilst being pressed into the moulding frame is so distributed that it lies quite smoothly in the...
corners and edges and that no creases or folds are formed. The pressed or stamped piece of material is allowed to dry and harden upon the core 4, whereupon it may be cut to the required height and further treated or worked.

The core and the outer mould or die may be made of any suitable material according to the material of which the container is made and also according to the size of the material treated. Figs. 6 to 8 show a wooden core 4 which, as may be seen from Fig. 8, is provided holes 9 for the escape of air enclosed between the core and the work.

Figs. 9 and 10 show a core made of metal in sectional elevation and cross section. The core is made hollow and is provided in its bottom with air escape passages 7.

The core may also be provided with a stencil or a pattern or inscription to be produced in the same operation upon the workpiece.

It will be understood that the described arrangement may also be reversed by using a movable outer moulding frame or rim and a stationary core or stamp. The outer mould and the stamp or core may also be moved simultaneously.

It will be understood that various details of construction may be varied without departing from the scope of the invention. The reinforcing rib shown in Fig. 9 may be omitted if not required.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:

A machine for forming seamless leather suitcases, bags and satchels, comprising a core member having the shape of a suitcase and provided with openings for the passage of air, the cross-section of said core member being the same throughout the height thereof, a ring which is substantially smaller in height than said core member and the suitcase to be drawn, said core member being adapted to be inserted within said ring, the distance between the exterior surfaces of said core member and the inner surfaces of said ring being smaller than the thickness of the leather to be drawn, reinforcing members connected with said ring at the exterior surfaces of the latter and supporting said ring, and means for supporting said reinforcing members.

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