May 20, 1952 M. A. SHOLL 2,597,194

PORTABLE UTILITY CASE

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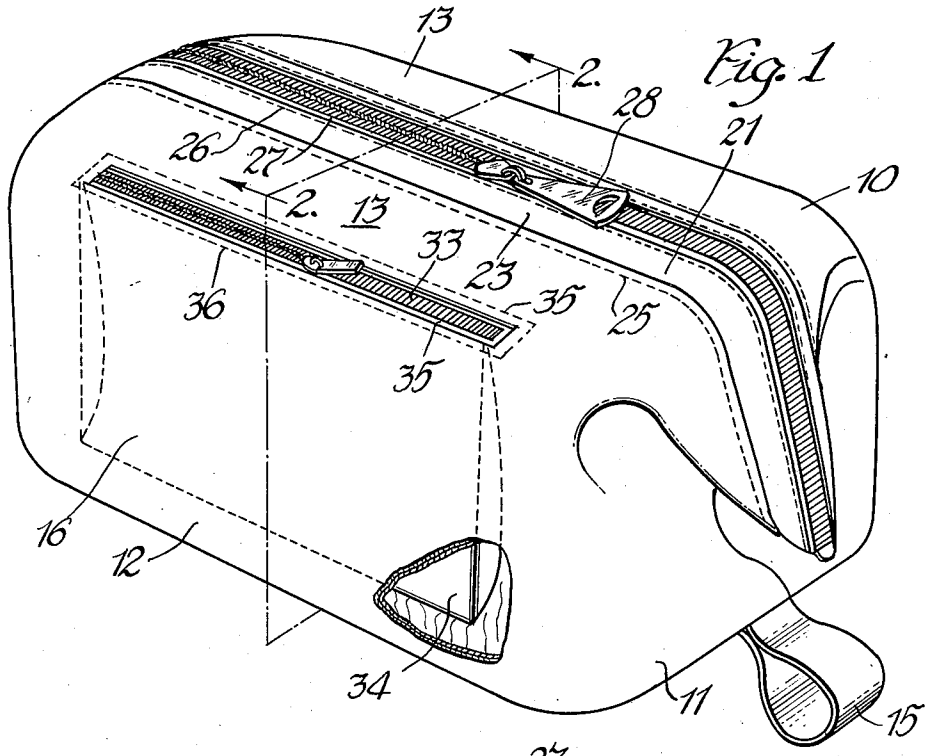


Fig. 1

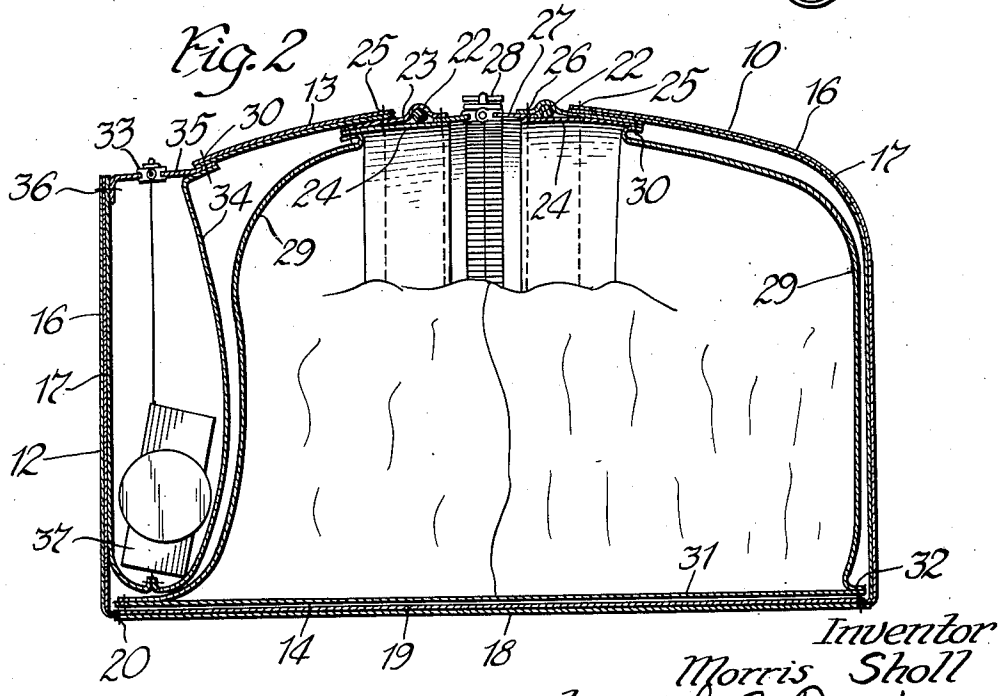


Fig. 2

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PORTABLE UTILITY CASE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

1

This invention relates to traveling cases generally and more particularly relates to improvements in portable utility cases of a type adapted to be used by gentlemen for carrying toiletries, razors and blades, and the like.

One object of this invention is to construct a portable traveling case whereby often used items can be quickly and easily removed or inserted without having to open the main portion of the bag where many contents are ordinarily carried.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a portable utility case having a substantially hidden or concealed pouch of smaller dimension than the main carrying portion of the case and which is easily accessible; which will not cause bulging outwardly of the side wall of the utility case; and which has its separate entrance opening with selectively closable means therefor.

Other and further objects of my invention will become apparent from the following description and the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and numerals of reference thereon.

On the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of my invention, a portion of the side wall being broken away for the purpose of illustration.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the drawings, numeral 10 represents generally a shell or casing having end walls 11, only one of which is shown in Fig. 1, having flexible side walls 12, one of which is shown in Fig. 1, having flexible upper wall extensions 13, and a lower flexible wall or base generally designated as 14, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Secured to the lower wall 14 by any suitable means may be a flexible loop or handle 15.

The walls 11, 12, 13 and 14 are designated generally, however, each of said walls comprising plurality of layers or plies to be described hereinafter.

Referring to the preferred specific construction of the walls of the casing 10, numeral 16 designates an outer flexible panel or layer which is constructed of leather or equivalent pliable and durable material, and which forms the outer surfaces of the end walls 11, the side walls 12 and the upper wall extensions 13. A rigidifying member or relatively stiff fabric 17 is disposed and secured along that portion of the inner surface of the outer layer 16 which is included in the side walls 12. The said rigidifying fabric and

2

the outer flexible panel or wall section 16 in combination provide only a very limited flexibility in the side walls 12. Although not illustrated, the rigidifying member 17 is not disposed along or adjacent to the inner surface of the end walls because of the greater degree of flexibility which is required in the end walls.

The bottom wall or base 14 includes a lower leather or flexible fabric layer or sheet 18 and a rigidifying or stiffening sheet-like element 19 which is disposed substantially along the entire inner surface of the lower layer 18. Along its peripheral edges the rigidifying member 19 is reduced preferably by formation of a recess as illustrated in the lower portion of Fig. 2, and the end and side walls 11 and 12 along their lower edges are seated and secured in said continuous recess. The lower leather layer 18 and the rigidifying member 19 are secured to the side and end walls by a continuous line of stitching designated as 20. Additionally, the rigidifying member 19 may be cemented to the lower layer 18 along their adjacent faces.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the upper wall extensions 13 are spaced apart and a closure fastener member generally designated as 21 is secured in the space between the upper wall extensions 13. The closure fastener member comprises a pair of bail elements 22 having their respective end portions together at their opposite ends. The bail elements are enclosed in a continuous tunnel comprising an outer casing strip 23 and a lower or inner casing strip 24, the closure fastener member 21 is secured to the upper wall extensions 13 by lines of stitching 25 which extend through the upper wall extensions 13 and the underlying casing strips 23 and 24 is illustrated in Fig. 2. Along their inwardly extending ends the casing strips 23 and 24 have disposed therebetween and secured thereto, by lines of stitching designated as 26, the fabric flanges 27 of a conventional slide fastener designated generally as 28.

As shown at the left of Fig. 2 numeral 29 designates a depending flexible partition or inner wall or liner which extends substantially from a path adjacent to the main opening of the casing to one longitudinal corner of the casing and from end to end. Said partition 29 is secured at its upper edge to the laterally extending edges of the normally upper and lower bail-securing strips 23 and 24 by lines of stitching 30. Along its lower edge the partition or lining 29 is secured adjacent to the lateral edges or periphery of an inner stiffening sheet-like element 31, formed of cardboard or the like, by continuous lines of stitch-

ing 32. Said liner 29 normally lies disposed substantially adjacent to the side and end walls of the case 10, except that the portion thereof adjacent to the auxiliary pouch is flexed inwardly as illustrated in Fig. 2 when articles are contained in said pouch.

At substantially the juncture of one side wall 12 and its upper wall extension 13, the casing 10 is provided with a longitudinal slot or slit to the defining edges of which there is secured a conventional slide fastener member 33. A bag or pocket 34 is mounted within the casing 10 as illustrated in Fig. 2 and is secured along its upper edge to the outer flexible side wall section 16 and to the adjacent rigidifying fabric or panel 17 and to the fabric flanges 35 of slide fastener member 33 by means of stitching designated as 36.

It is to be appreciated that I have provided a separate or auxiliary pouch or bag within the housing 10 and that when one or a number of articles such as illustrated by a can 37 is placed in the pouch 34, any such inserted articles will not cause the sides of the case to buckle, bulge, or be pushed outwardly beyond the normal general plane or contour of the case, this preventing a disfiguration of the entire case. The inserting of articles into said auxiliary pouch will only flex the inner liner 29 into the chamber defined by the case 10.

My economical and novel building in of the aforesaid auxiliary substantially concealed bag or pouch provides an improved and more consumer-acceptable kit or case with the added advantages of permitting the separate storage and quick and easy separate removal of various small personal articles which are thereby maintained out of contact and unmixed from other articles placed into the main and large compartment of the case. Additionally, the small articles, i. e., cosmetics, shaving paste, etc. placed into such auxiliary pocket are prevented from spilling onto and adhering to grooming accessories and other articles in the large chamber of the principal kit.

This construction is also an advantage over previous devices in this art because of the ease and rapidity with which the product can be assembled. Beginning with the outer housing 10 the lower base or wall 14 is secured thereto, by continuous stitching. Thereafter the auxiliary pouch 34 and its associated slide fastener member is secured into position as described. Subsequently, the inner casing liner 29 and the fastener member, which has been previously assembled, is inserted, mounted and connected to the case. The advantage in saving of time, labor, and material of this construction will readily be appreciated.

As many changes could be made in the above construction, and as many apparently widely different embodiments of my invention within the scope of the claims could be constructed without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the accompanying specification shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In a portable utility kit, a case having a substantially flat base and connected side walls and end walls and having upper extensions integral with said side and end walls forming the top of said case; said case having a substantially central opening; a slide fastener mounted along said central opening; said case having a longitudinally extending slot substantially adjacent to one side wall thereof; a slide fastener mounted to selectively close said slot; an auxiliary pouch depending from said side slot and having its upper edges secured to one of said top extensions and to the upper edge of one of said side walls; a rigidifying sheet-like element mounted on said side wall adjacent said pouch; and a flexible partition extending from the intermediate portion of the upper part of said case to the lower corner adjacent the lower part of said pouch, said partition providing an inwardly expandable chamber for said pouch.

2. In a portable kit, an elongated case of substantially flexible material having a longitudinally extending central opening; a slide fastener mounted to selectively close said central opening; a pair of metal reinforcing bails mounted along the intermediate portion of said case and substantially adjacent to the edges defining said central opening; one of said case side walls having a flat rigidifying member secured thereto; said case having a longitudinally extending side opening substantially adjacent to the juncture of one side of said reinforced side wall and the top thereof; a flexible pouch mounted below said side opening and having its upper edges secured about said side opening; and a slide fastener mounted on said case and adapted to selectively open and close said side opening.

3. In a portable kit, an elongated case of substantially flexible material having a longitudinally extending central opening; a slide fastener mounted to selectively close said central opening; a pair of metal reinforcing bails mounted along the intermediate portion of said case and substantially adjacent to the edges defining said central opening; one of said case side walls having a flat rigidifying member secured thereto; said case having a longitudinally extending side opening substantially adjacent to the juncture of one side of said reinforced side wall and the top thereof; a flexible pouch mounted below said side opening and having its upper edges secured about said side opening; and a flexible partition extending from the corner portion of said case below said pouch to points substantially adjacent the central opening of said case said partition providing for expansion of said pouch inwardly of said case, said rigidifying member of said side wall preventing distortion of said side wall.

4. In a portable utility kit, a case having flexible end walls and side walls, one of said side walls having an upper extension; a substantially flat base, said side and end walls being connected to said base; rigidifying sheets mounted adjacent said base and adjacent said side walls; said case having a substantially central longitudinally disposed opening; a releasable slide fastener in said central opening; the upper portion of said case having a longitudinal slot opening proximate to one side wall thereof; a flexible partition extending from substantially the central portion of the upper part of said case to the corner juncture of one side wall and said base; and a flexible pocket disposed between said partition and the adjacent side wall and secured at its upper edges to the edge portions of the upper part of said case, said slot opening providing an entrance to said pocket.

5. In a portable utility kit, a case having a substantially flat base and connected side walls and end walls and having upper extensions integral with said side and end walls forming the top of said case; said case having a substantially central opening; a slide fastener mounted along

said central opening; said case having a longitudinally extending slot substantially adjacent to one side wall thereof; a slide fastener mounted to selectively close said slot; an auxiliary pouch depending from said side slot and having its upper edges secured to one of said top extensions and to the upper edge of one of said side walls; and a flexible partition extending from the intermediate portion of the upper part of said case to the lower corner adjacent the lower part of said pouch, said partition providing an inwardly expandable chamber for said pouch.

6. In a portable utility kit, a case having a substantially flat base and upwardly extending side walls and ends walls connected to said base; said side walls having inwardly extending integral extensions to form a pair of normally adjacent top sections; said top sections and said end walls having a continuous central opening; a slide fastener mounted to selectively open and close said opening; the edge portions of said top section adjacent said fastener having reinforcing elements; an inner container of flexible material within said case and providing an inner

lining, one side wall portion of said inner lining being normally spaced away from the adjacent side walls of said case; a depending pocket mounted between said spaced portion of said inner lining and a side wall of said case; said case having a longitudinal slot substantially adjacent its side wall and providing an entrance to said pocket; and a slide fastener mounted about said last mentioned slot for selectively opening and closing same.

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