Nov. 29, 1938. E. E. WILT 2,138,202

SUITCASE

Filed March 25, 1937 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

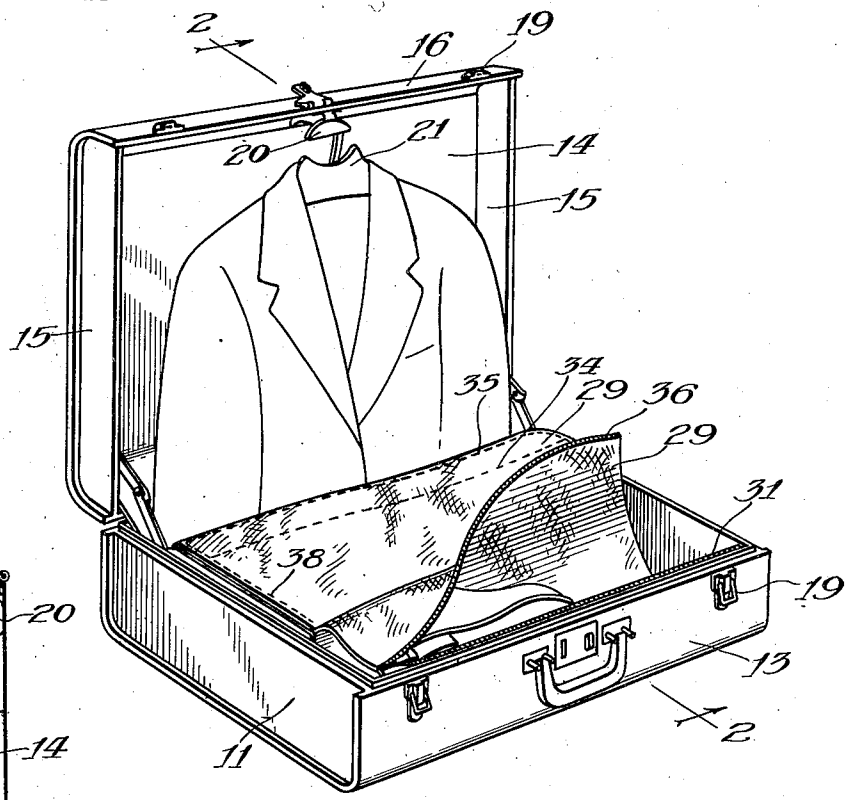
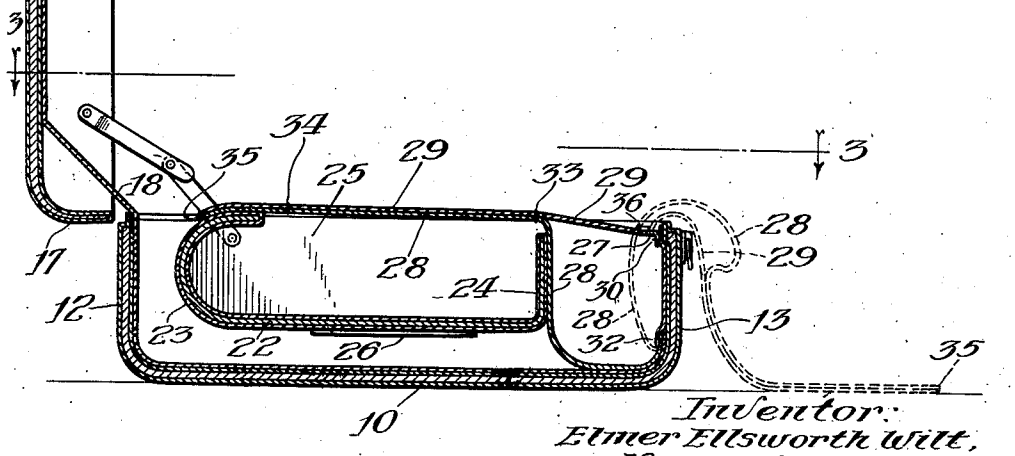


FIG. 2.



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Nov. 29, 1938. E. E. WILT 2,138,202

SUITCASE

Filed March 25, 1937 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3.

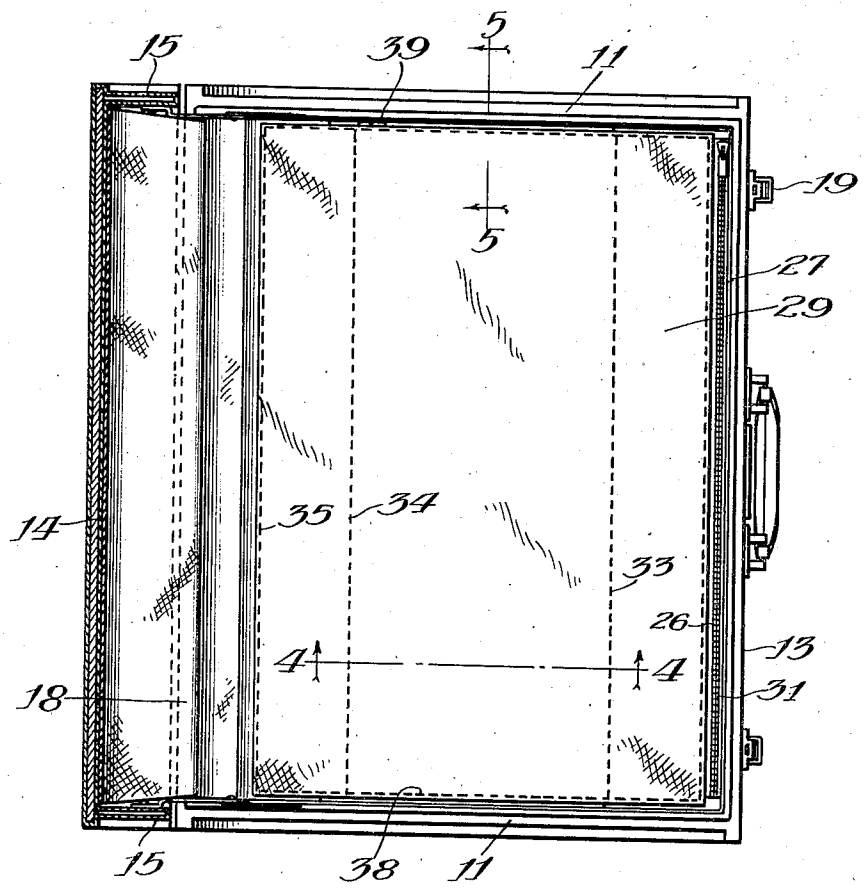


FIG. 4.

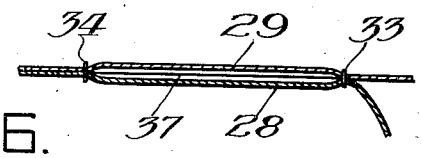


FIG. 5.

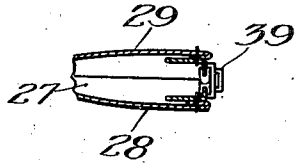
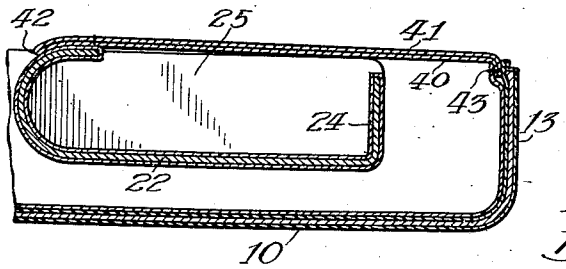


FIG. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,138,202

SUITCASE

Elmer Ellsworth Wilt, Chicago, Ill.

Application March 25, 1937, Serial No. 133,022

2 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

This invention relates to suit cases and particularly to the type known as wardrobe suit cases. One example of cases of this kind is shown and described in United States Patent No. 1,760,098 issued to me May 27, 1930.

The main object of this invention is to provide, preferably in a suit case of the type referred to, a combination shoe holder and apron, the primary function of the apron being to protect the clothing while it is being packed as well as to cover it after it has been packed into the case.

Another object is to so construct the apron that it may serve also as a holder for laundry and other articles which may be inserted in the apron. When the shoe holder is unoccupied, it serves as part of the apron for protecting the clothing both during and following the packing.

In some embodiments of the invention, the shoe holder may be eliminated or be separate from the apron, and in such constructions the apron is directly connected to the suit case.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a suit case embodying my invention, the shoe holder being shown in partially open position and the apron covering articles in the body of the case.

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 but showing the shoe holder, in full lines, as it appears when closed and the apron resting on the tray or on articles packed in the case, and showing, in dotted lines, the unoccupied shoe holder and apron as they appear while the case is being packed.

Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken in the plane of the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of the apron, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view of a detail of construction of the apron, taken in the plane of the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a transverse sectional view of a modified form of construction.

In the following description the walls of the case are designated as top, bottom, and side walls, according to their positions when the case is upright, as when carried by the hand hold secured to the top wall.

In that embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings, the main section of the case comprises a side wall 10, two end walls 11, a bottom 12 and a top 13. The cover or smaller section of the case comprises a side wall 14 which, when the case is closed, is parallel to the side wall 10, two end walls 15, a top wall 16 and a bottom wall 17. The wall 17 is longitudinally hinged at 18 to the bottom wall 12.

Conventional fastening devices secured to the top walls 13 and 16 are indicated at 19, a bracket for holding clothes hangers is indicated at 20 and a clothes hanger at 21. The bracket is preferably secured under the top wall 16 of the cover, midway between its ends.

A tray or container preferably is provided for cases of this type. In this embodiment of the invention the tray is adapted to have movement between the top and bottom walls of the case as well as between the side walls 10 and 14. As shown, this tray comprises a substantially flat bottom 22 which is normally substantially parallel to the side wall 10, and integral with said wall 22 is a longitudinally extending curved wall 23 and upright wall 24. The walls 22, 23 and 24 are preferably as long as the interior of the case but the transverse dimension of the tray is less than the distance between the case walls 12 and 13. End walls 25 are secured to the ends of the walls 22, 23 and 24.

On the inner surfaces of the end walls 11 of the case are brackets 26 which are preferably located parallel to and relatively close to the side wall 10. These brackets 26 slidably support the tray except when the clothing between the tray wall 22 and the side wall 10 is of greater thickness than the space between said walls, in which event the tray will be spaced from the wall 10 to an extent greater than that shown in the drawings and will not rest upon the brackets 26.

The combination shoe holder and apron comprises three panels of fabric indicated, respectively, at 27, 28 and 29. The panel 27 is narrow and as long as the wall 13, and is stitched or otherwise secured along one longitudinal edge to the inner surface of said wall 13 as indicated at 30. On the other longitudinal edge are fasteners 31. The fabric panels 28 and 29 are also as long as the case walls 10 and 13, but the part 28 is somewhat wider than the part 29. The panel 28 is stitched or otherwise secured along one longitudinal edge to the inner surface of the case wall 13, near its junction with the side wall 10, as indicated at 32. Between its longitudinal edges, said panel 28 is stitched to the upper part 29 by lines of stitches 33 and 34, so that the panel 28 underlies the member 29. The parts 28 and 29 may be integral and folded at 35 or if in two pieces, may be stitched together at their matched edges 35. The opposite longitudinal edge of the upper panel 29 is provided with fasteners 36

which engage the fasteners **31** on the narrow panel **27**. These are preferably of the slide fastener type.

The fabric **28** between the lines of stitching **32** and **33** is sufficiently wide to form the bottom and side wall of the shoe holder. The inner surface of the case wall **13** provides the other side wall of the shoe holder, and the fabric panels **29** and **27** form the top. A pocket **37** is formed by the panels **28** and **29**, in that portion between the stitches **33** and **34**. The pocket **37** is closed at one end by stitches **38** and may be entered at the other end which is closed by fasteners **39** of the slide fastener type.

When the unoccupied shoe holder and apron are in the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, the smooth panel **28** is uppermost, and clothing being packed in the case will be protected against contact with the outer surface of the case wall **13** and the fastening devices on the shoe holder. When the case has been packed, the apron proper covers the contents, and shoes may be placed in the holder without danger of soiling the articles in the case.

In the modified form shown in Fig. 6, the apron and laundry holder is connected directly to the case, and comprises two fabric layers **40**, **41**, identical in size, as distinguished from the layers **28** and **29**, heretofore described. The layers **40**, **41** preferably are made of one piece of material, folded at **42**, and stitched at **43** to the longitudinal edge of the top wall **13** of the case. The end edges of the layers **40**, **41** at one side are stitched together and at the other side are provided with fasteners such as the fasteners **39** described in connection with the apron **28—29**. Thus the fabric layers **40**, **41** form a bag for holding laundry or other articles, and they also serve as an apron for protecting clothing while it is being packed into the case and for covering the clothing after it has been packed.

Changes may be made in details of construction without departing from the scope of my invention and I do not intend to be limited to the exact form shown and described, except as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. A suit case provided with a combination shoe holder and apron, comprising a relatively long, narrow piece of material secured along one longitudinal margin to the top wall of the suit case near its free edge, fasteners on the opposite longitudinal edge of said narrow piece of material, a pair of substantially rectangular panels of material, having their edges matched and connected together at three sides, fastening devices secured to the free edge of one of said panels for engagement with said first mentioned fasteners, the free edge of the other of said panels being secured to the inner surface of the top wall of the case near its junction with the side wall, and a line of stitches connecting said panels longitudinally and parallel with said fastening means between the shoe holder forming portion and the apron portion of said panels.

2. A suit case provided with a combination shoe holder and apron, comprising a relatively long, narrow piece of material secured along one longitudinal margin to the top wall of the suit case near its free edge, fasteners on the opposite longitudinal edge of said narrow piece of material, a pair of substantially rectangular panels of material, having their edges matched and connected together at three sides, fastening devices secured to the free edge of one of said panels for engagement with said first mentioned fasteners, the free edge of the other of said panels being secured to the inner surface of the case near the junction of the top and side walls, and a line of stitches connecting said panels longitudinally and parallel with said fastening means between the shoe holder forming portion and the apron portion of said panels, said holder when unoccupied serving as part of the apron to protect clothing while being packed against contact with the outer surface of the top wall of the case, and the apron being adapted to overlie the contents of the packed case between the shoe holder and bottom wall of the case.

ELMER ELLSWORTH WILT.