Nov. 14, 1944. E. DRESNER 2,362,807

LUGGAGE

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Fig. 1.

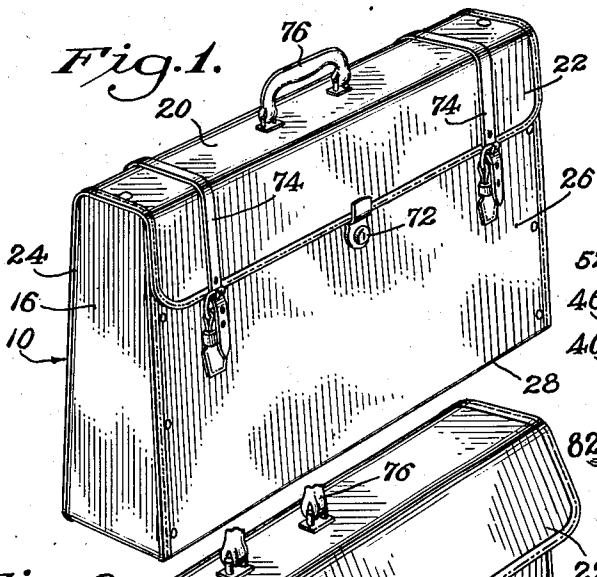


Fig. 3.

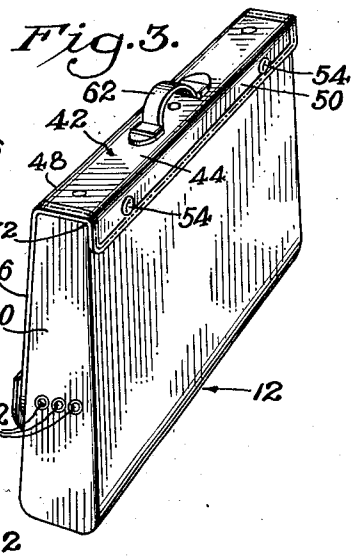
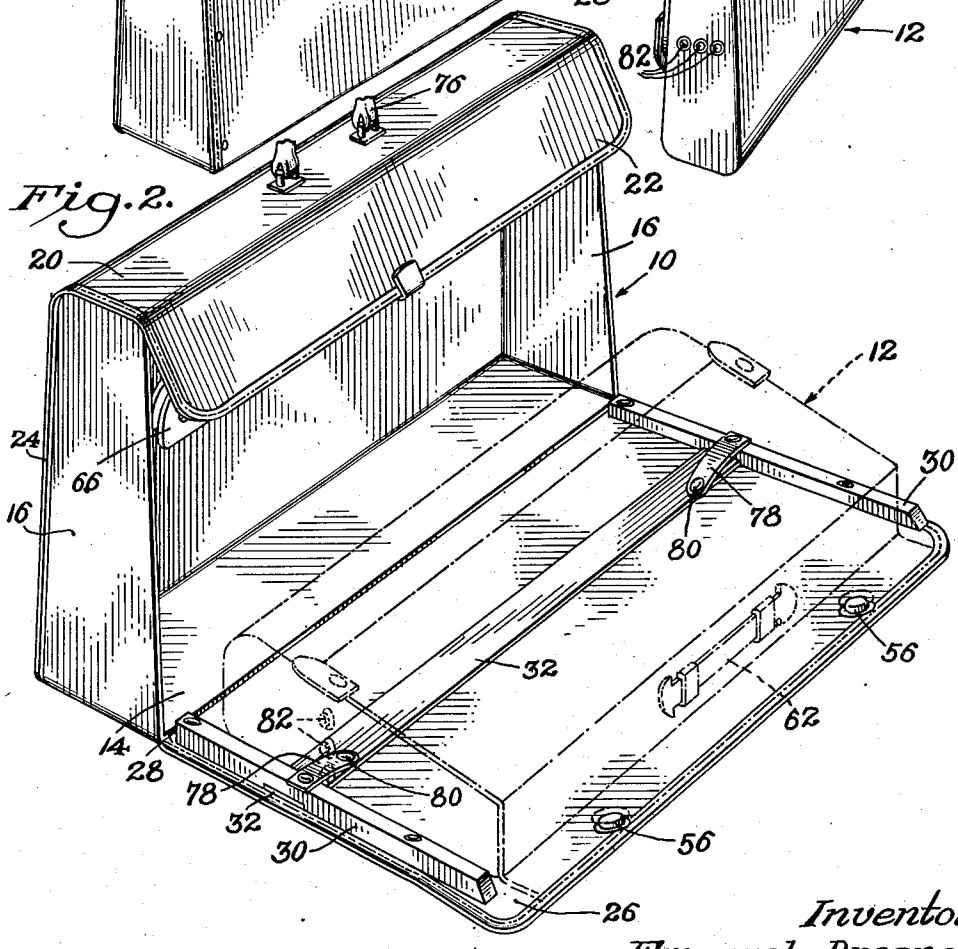


Fig. 2.



Inventor
Emanuel Dresner
BY
Soans, Ford and Anderson
Attorneys

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Fig. 4.

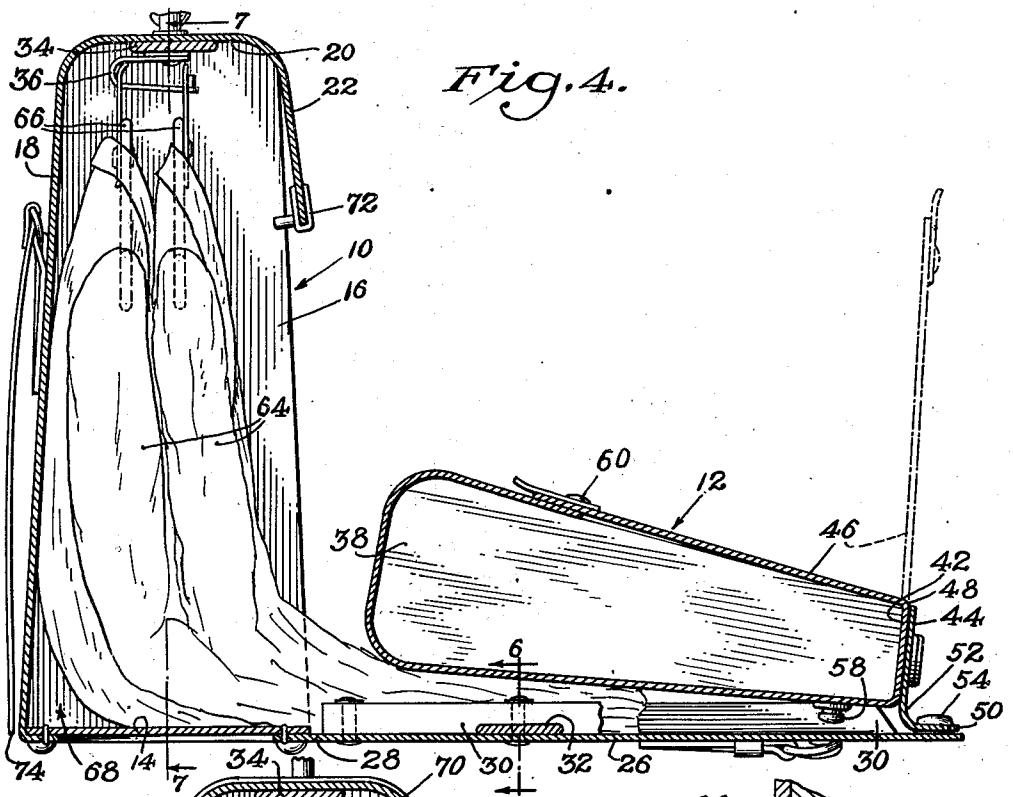


Fig. 5.

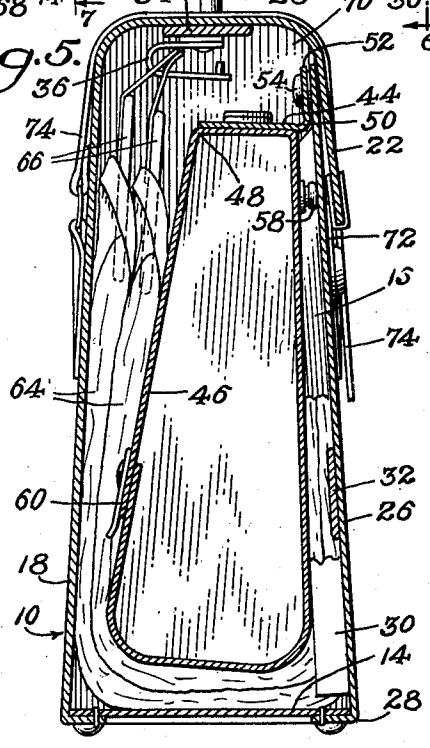
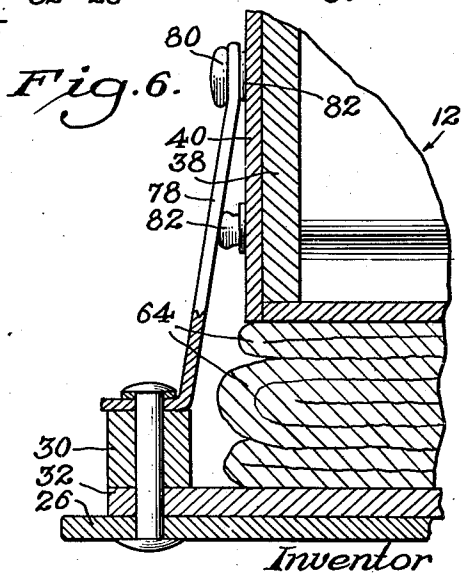


Fig. 6.



Inventor

Emanuel Dresner

By

Soans, Pond and Anderson

Attorneys.

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Fig. 7.

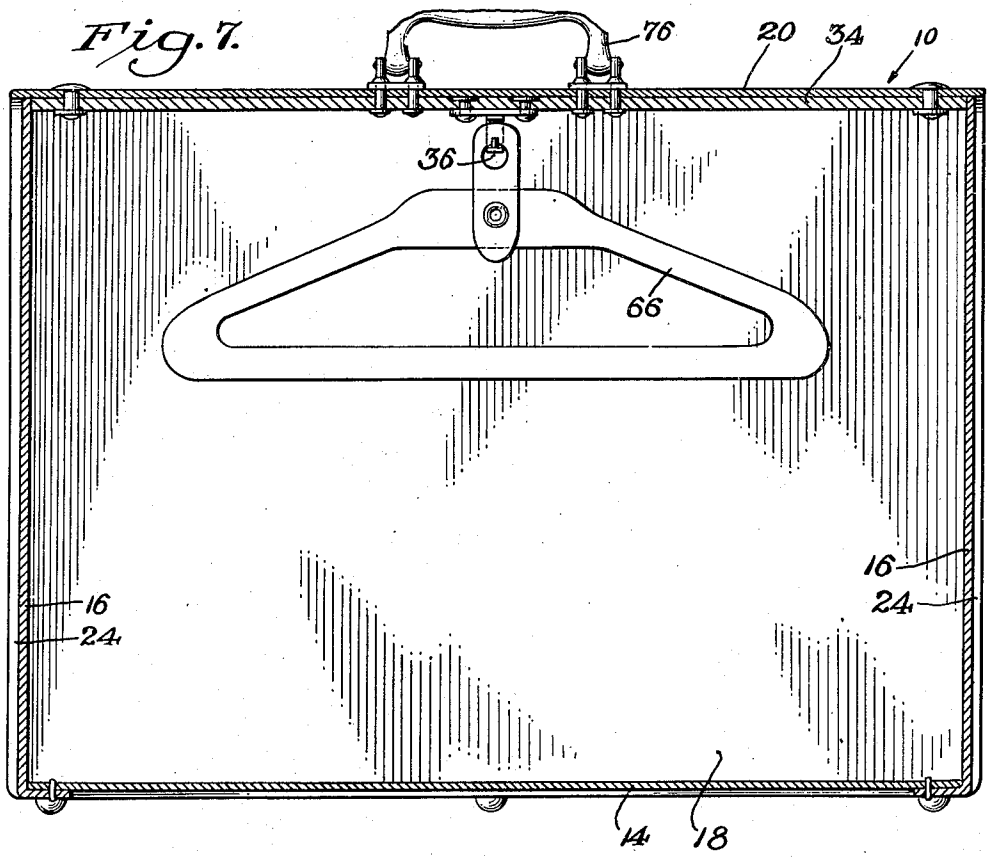
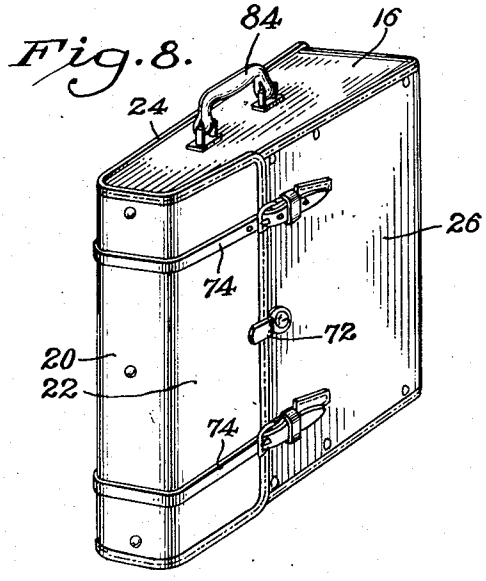


Fig. 8.



Inventor
Emanuel Dresner
BY
Soans, Pond and Anderson
Attorneys.

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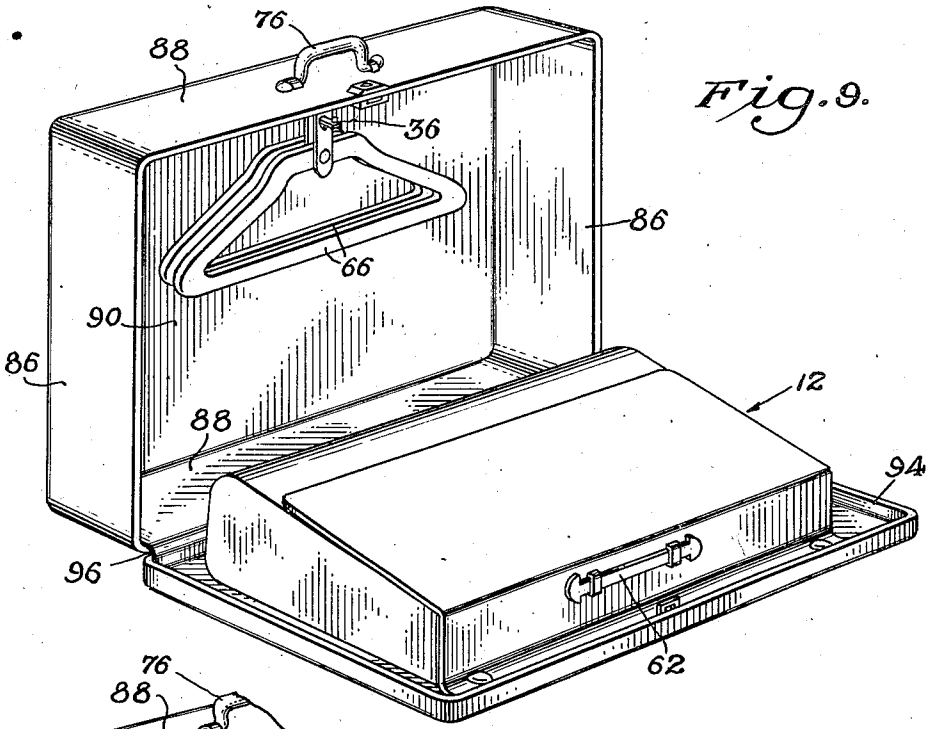


Fig. 9.

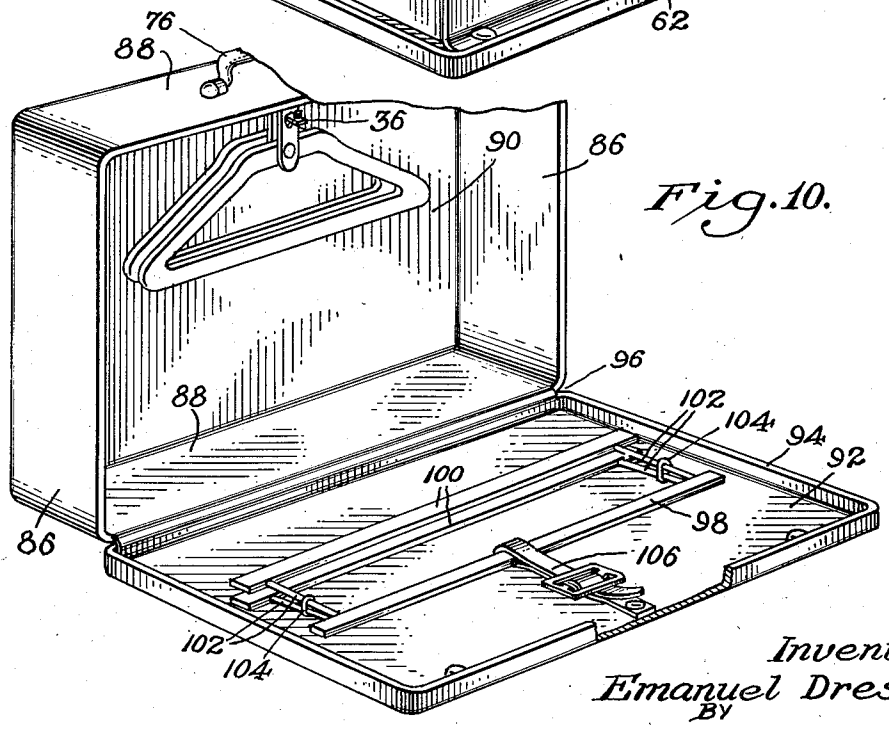


Fig. 10.

Inventor
Emanuel Dresner
BY
Soans, Pond and Anderson
Attorneys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,362,807

LUGGAGE

Emanuel Dresner, Chicago, Ill., assignor to Fannie Poster, Chicago, Ill.

Application November 22, 1943, Serial No. 511,241

5 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

My invention relates to luggage and includes among its objects and advantages an increase in the range of sizes available to the user of a single unit of luggage and improved means for holding a variety of long garments with a minimum of crushing or wrinkling.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a complete unit and according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar perspective of the outer container of the same unit, thrown open;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the inner container in the condition of separate use;

Fig. 4 is a central transverse section of the unit in the condition of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a similar section with the unit closed;

Fig. 6 is a detail section on line 6—6 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 7 is a section on line 7—7, Fig. 4;

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modified carrying arrangement;

Fig. 9 indicates the application of the principles of the invention to a piece of luggage of the rigid frame type; and

Fig. 10 is a view of the outer container of Fig. 9 with the inner container removed.

In the embodiment of the invention selected for illustration in Figs. 1 to 7 inclusive, the outer container 10 and the inner container 12 are both of the semi-rigid type of construction. The outer container includes the bottom wall 14 and slightly tapering end walls 16. The rear wall 18, top wall 20 and full length closure flap 22 may be formed of a single piece of material with or without reinforcement means other than the seams 24 which fasten the back 18 and top 20 to the end walls 16.

The front panel 26 is capable of rotation around a hinge at 28 formed, in this instance, by the flexibility of the material itself. The hinge 28 permits the cover 26 to move from the closed position of Fig. 5 to the open position of Fig. 4, and 90° further without injury to the hinge. The front 26 is reinforced by a cleat 30 along each of its end edges and may also be braced longitudinally by a thin reinforcing strip 32 lying close against the panel itself and notched into the cleats 30.

Suitable means are provided for suspending a plurality of relatively long garments from the top 20. I have indicated a bracing strip 34 for the top 20, generally similar to the bracing strip 32, and a U-shaped hanger support 36 of metal, attached to the top 20 and brace 34 substantially midway between the ends thereof.

The inner container 12 has relatively thick end walls made up of a rigid piece 38 and a cover panel 40, and the top 42 is of similar construction comprising a rigid piece 42 with a cover panel 44, which is extended at 46 to form a front hinged at 48. The panel 44 is also extended in the other direction to form a short flap 50 hinged at 52 and provided with a plurality of female snap fastener members 54 adapted to cooperate with the male snap fastener members 56 to fasten the inner container in the positions of Figs. 2 and 4 and support it in the position of Fig. 5.

The back of the inner container 12 is provided with a double set of male snap fastener members 58 and the panel 46 is provided with a fastening means at 60 in the nature of snap fasteners. And the top 42 is provided with a carrying handle 62 so that the inner container may be used by itself as a complete piece of luggage in the condition illustrated in Fig. 3 with the flap 50 turned down and held down by engagement with the male snap fastener members 58.

In using the complete unit illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, one or more long garments 64 may be draped on conventional hangers 66 and the hangers engaged with the support 36, with the lower portions of the garments laid smoothly and evenly out across the front panel 26. Then the inner container 12, either before or after it has been filled with clothing or other articles, is positioned as in Fig. 4 and the snap fasteners 54 are engaged and the cover 46 closed. This lets the weight of the inner container rest gently on the lower portion of the garments 64, and the user will readily learn after a very few attempts how much slack to leave to permit the garments to wrap themselves around the inner container as the parts are moved to the position of Fig. 5. Before this movement takes place the user may position additional clothing or other articles at 68 or in front of the upper portions of the garments 64, depending on how many garments there are, and after the inner container and front have been moved up to the position of Fig. 5 the space above the inner container at 70 may similarly be filled before the closure flap 22 is moved into place and fastened with the lock 72 or the straps 74 or both. The handle 76 for the outer container is securely fastened to the brace 34 and is of heavier construction than handle 62 on account of the heavier loads it needs to carry.

Adjacent the ends of brace 32, I provide hold down straps 78, one at each end, each suitably fastened to the adjacent cleat 30 and having an upwardly extending reach terminating in a female snap fastener member 80. The adjacent portion of the end panel 38 of the inner con-

tainer is provided with a plurality of male snap fastener members **82** so that the user can fasten the end of the strap **78** to which ever male snap fastener member is appropriate for the purpose of maintaining a gentle compression on the lower portions of the garment **64** between the relatively wide flat brace **32** and the entire flat rear wall of the inner container.

The equipment of Fig. 8 differs from that of Fig. 1 in having the handle **84** for carrying the entire unit at the end of the unit. It will be apparent that such garments as **64**, after they have been suitably assembled with the luggage as in Fig. 5, are gently compressed throughout substantially their entire extent in the U-shaped space between the inner and outer containers so that such an assembly may be carried in the position indicated at Fig. 8 without causing the garments to become rumpled.

Referring now to Figs. 9 and 10, I have illustrated an outer container of the rigid suitcase variety having relatively rigid end walls **86**, side walls **88** and bottom wall **90**. The cover **92** is also relatively rigid, having a peripheral flange **94** to contribute to its strength, and a separate flexible hinge member **96** to hinge it to the body. To take care of a wide variety of lengths of garments, I have indicated a conventional type of hanger comprising a longitudinal beam **98** from which longitudinal clamping members **100** are supported by wire spacers **102**. The spacers **102** normally diverge to assist the user in inserting material between the clamping straps **100** and may be drawn together by slidable loops **104** to cause the device to clamp the garment. And the adjustable supporting strap **106** enables the user to position the clamp at the desired point, and so that it will hold the garments smooth but not under tension when the parts are folded up.

It will be apparent that the user of such a unit of luggage can travel in four different ways; first, with only the container of Fig. 3, as on short overnight trips; second, with the large container of Fig. 2 and without the small container, as on trips to the laundry; third, with the unit in the condition of Fig. 5, which will be, perhaps, the usual condition; and lastly, under conditions where a large amount of carrying capacity is paramount, with the large container and the small container each carried separately.

Without further elaboration the foregoing will so fully explain my invention that others may, by applying knowledge current now or at the time of such application, readily adapt the same for use under various conditions of service.

I claim:

1. Luggage equipment comprising: in combination: an outer container having two hinged portions and shaped to rest on a horizontal support, such as a floor, with one section vertical and the other section opened to a horizontal position; means near the top of the vertical section for suspending the ends of garments with the body of each garment extending downwardly and then laterally across the opened horizontal portion; an inner container smaller than the other container; hinged means for attaching the inner container to the free edge of the opened section whereby the inner container may be laid gently over the remote ends of the suspended garments and then folded to closed position together with said opened section; the lower end of said inner container being of a size adapted, when moved into closed position, to displace and press against the bights of the suspended garments; said hinged connection for supporting said inner container being offset from the center of gravity of said inner container in a direction away from the suspended ends of said garments whereby said inner container tends by gravity to press gently against the free ends of the garments after the outer container has been closed; said inner container being tapered with its upper end smaller than its lower end, whereby the face of the said inner container opposite the suspended ends of the garments lies at an acute angle to the opposed outer container wall, and thus affords additional clearance adjacent the shoulder portions of said suspended garments.

2. Luggage equipment comprising: in combination; an outer container having two hinged portions and shaped to rest on a horizontal support, such as a floor, with one section vertical and the other section opened to a horizontal position; means near the top of the vertical section for suspending the ends of garments with the body of each garment extending downwardly and then laterally across the opened horizontal portion; an inner container smaller than the other container; hinged means for attaching the inner container to the free edge of the opened section whereby the inner container may be laid gently over the remote ends of the suspended garments and then folded to closed position together with said opened section; the lower end of said inner container being of a size adapted, when moved to closed position, to displace and press against the bights of the suspended garments; said hinged connection for supporting said inner container being offset from the center of gravity of said inner container in a direction away from the suspended ends of said garments whereby said inner container tends by gravity to press gently against the free ends of the garments after the outer container has been closed.

3. Luggage equipment comprising: in combination an outer container having two hinged portions and shaped to rest on a horizontal support, such as a floor, with one section vertical and the other section opened to a horizontal position; means near the top of the vertical section for suspending the ends of garments with the body of each garment extending downwardly and then laterally across the opened horizontal portion; an inner container smaller than the other container; hinged means for attaching the inner container to the free edge of the opened section whereby the inner container may be laid gently over the remote ends of the suspended garments and then folded to closed position together with said opened section; the lower end of said inner container being of a size adapted, when moved to closed position, to displace and press against the bights of the suspended garments; said inner container being tapered with its upper end smaller than its lower end, whereby the face of the said inner container opposite the suspended garments ends lies at an acute angle to the opposite outer container wall and thus affords additional clearance adjacent the shoulder portions of said suspended garments.

4. Luggage equipment comprising, in combination: an outer container having two portions; hinge means hingedly connecting said portions along one edge of each; means on one first-mentioned portion remote from said hinge means for suspending the ends of garments with the body of each garment extending toward said hinge means and then laterally across and away from said hinge means adjacent the other, sec-

ond-mentioned, portion; an inner container smaller than the outer container; means for attaching the inner container to said second-mentioned portion along a line remote from and substantially parallel to said hinge means, whereby the inner container may be laid gently over the remote ends of the suspended garments and the second-mentioned portion and inner container then folded to closed position; the lower end of said inner container being of a size adapted, when moved to closed position, to displace and press against the bights of the suspended garments; said attaching means being offset from the center of gravity of said inner container in a direction away from the suspended ends of said garments, whereby said inner container tends by gravity to press gently against the free ends of the garments after the outer container has been closed; and handle means on said outer container remote from said hinge means and adapted to carry it with said hinge means at the bottom.

5. Luggage equipment comprising, in combination: an outer container having two portions; hinge means hingedly connecting said portions along one edge of each; means on one first-mentioned portion remote from said hinge means for suspending the ends of garments with the body of each garment extending toward said hinge means and then laterally across and away from said hinge means adjacent the other, second-mentioned, portion; an inner container smaller than the outer container; and means for attaching the inner container to said second-mentioned portion along a line remote from and substantially parallel to said hinge means, whereby the inner container may be laid gently over the remote ends of the suspended garments and the second-mentioned portion and inner container then folded to closing position; said attaching means being offset from the center of gravity of said inner container in a direction away from the suspended ends of said garments, whereby said inner container tends by gravity to press gently against the free ends of the garments after the outer container has been closed; and handle means on said outer container remote from said hinge means and adapted to carry it with said hinge means at the bottom.

EMANUEL DRESNER.