March 15, 1955 W. H. ARLITT, JR 2,704,140

LUGGAGE CONSTRUCTION

Filed Jan. 12, 1954

Fig. 1.

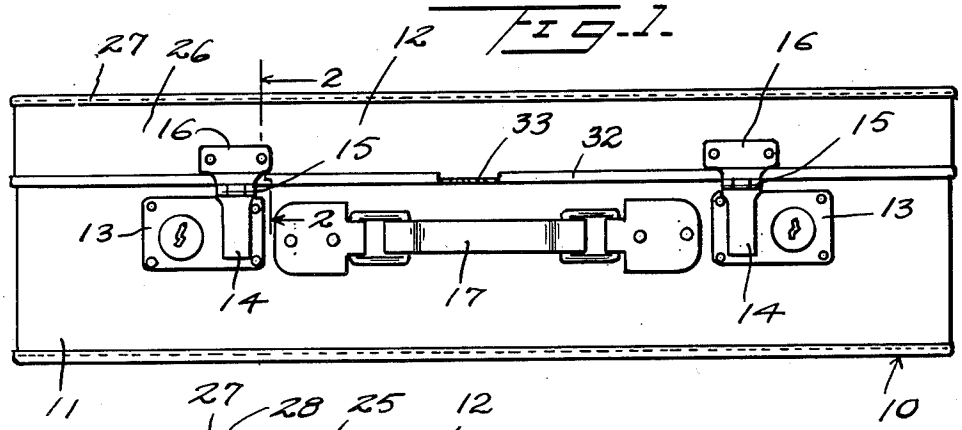


Fig. 2.

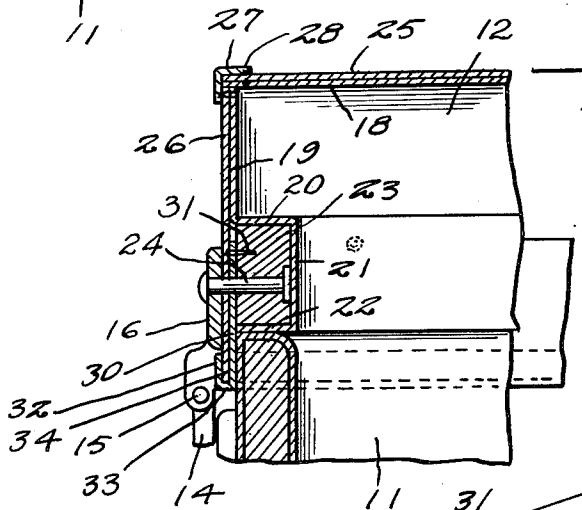
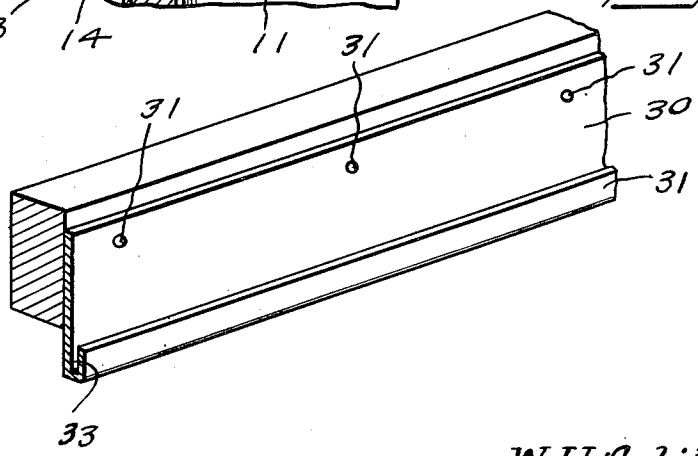


Fig. 3.



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LUGGAGE CONSTRUCTION

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1 Claim. (Cl. 190—28)

This invention relates to luggage construction and has as its primary object the provision of an improved construction for luggage, such as suitcases, trunks, or the like, wherein the cover of the luggage is provided with a metal trim or valance so positioned as to completely hide the tacks or nails utilized in the normal assembly of the case.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of such a valance provided with a reverted or crimped edge adapted to hold the lower rim of the covering material and form the trim for the lower edge of the lid for the case.

Still other objects reside in the combination of elements, arrangement of parts, and features of construction, all as will be more fully pointed out hereinafter, and shown in the accompanying drawing, wherein there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of this inventive concept.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a suitcase, or similar article, constructed in accordance with the instant invention.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Figure 1 as viewed in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Figure 3 is a perspective view disclosing the valance as tacked or secured to the reinforcing rib or frame of the top of the suitcase.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawing.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, there is generally indicated at **10** a suitcase, or similar article of luggage, comprising a body portion **11** and a lid or cover **12**. The body portion is provided on its top edge with the conventional locks **13** carried by the conventional leaves **14** hinged, as at **15**, to supporting bracket members **16** carried by the lid **12**.

A carrying handle **17** of conventional design is also provided.

Referring now particularly to Figure 2, the lid construction of the instant invention includes a top portion comprised of an inner body **18** having formed therewith a depending flange **19** which is formed adjacent its lower edge with an inwardly extending shoulder **20**, depending portion **21**, and an outwardly extending lower lip **22**.

Portions **20**, **21**, and **22** form a seat for a reinforcing member or rib **23**, through which extends a bolt **24** for securing the bracket **16** securely thereto. The suitcase

also includes a relatively rigid covering member **25** over top **18**, and a corresponding depending flange or face plate **26** which extends downwardly between brackets **16** and rib **23**.

The intersecting edges of covering portions **25** and **26** are reinforced in the customary manner, as by a welt **27** suitably stitched through members **26** and **19**, and portions **25** and **18**, as indicated at **28**.

A feature of the instant invention comprises a metal valance **30** which is directly secured to rib **23** by tacks or nails **31**. The lower edge of valance **30** includes a reverted marginal rim or lip **32** formed to provide a bight **33** at the marginal rim of the valance. The lower extremity of covering flange or face plate **26**, indicated at **34**, normally seats in the bight **33** so that the lower reverted portion of valance **30** serves as a marginal rim and reinforcing member for the lid of cover **12** of the article of luggage.

Similarly, since the outer covering flange or face plate **26** extends the full distance from the bight **33** of the valance to its intersection with top cover **25**, the heads of nails or tacks **31** are completely concealed, thus affording a strong construction, and one which is pleasing to the eye.

As best shown in Figure 2, rib **23** is of slightly less width than the depth of the recess formed by portions **20**, **21** and **22**, so that valance **30** extends in flush relationship with the outer side of the inner flange **19**.

From the foregoing, it will now be seen that there is herein provided an improved luggage construction of great strength, which completely hides the securing means for the valance material, thus providing a more attractive article, and which accomplishes all the objects of this invention, and others, including many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

As many embodiments may be made of this inventive concept, and as many modifications may be made in the embodiment hereinbefore shown and described, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be taken merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What is claimed is:

In a luggage construction, a receptacle, a lid hinged to said receptacle, a flange depending from the top edge of said lid, said flange having a U-shaped recess formed in the lower portion thereof, a reinforcing rib seated in said recess, a metal valance secured to the outer face of said rib with said valance and the upper portion of said flange lying in the same plane, nails securing said valance to said rib, an outwardly reverted lip on the bottom edge of said valance forming a reinforcement for the lower edge of said valance, and a face plate secured at its upper portion to the upper portion of said flange seated at its lower end in the reverted lip of said valance and covering said rib, nails and flange completely.

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