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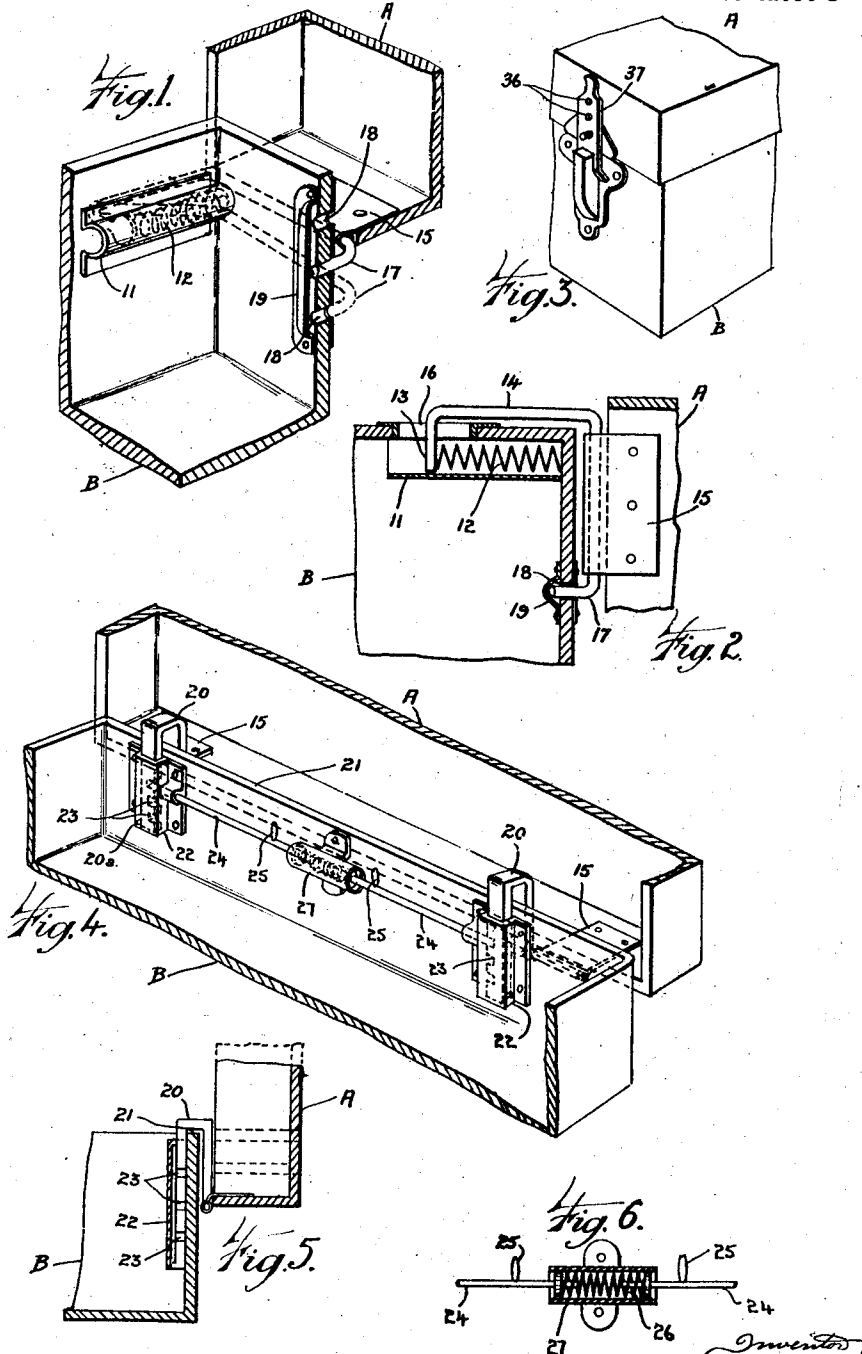
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F. C. GADSBY

SUITCASE, ATTACHÉ CASE, AND THE LIKE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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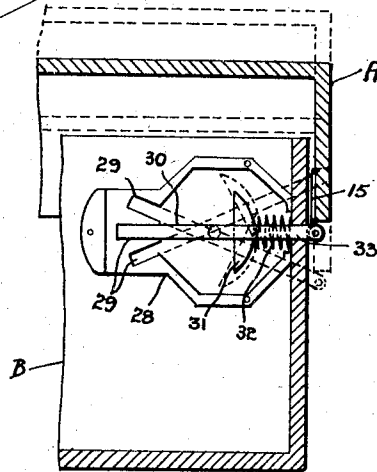
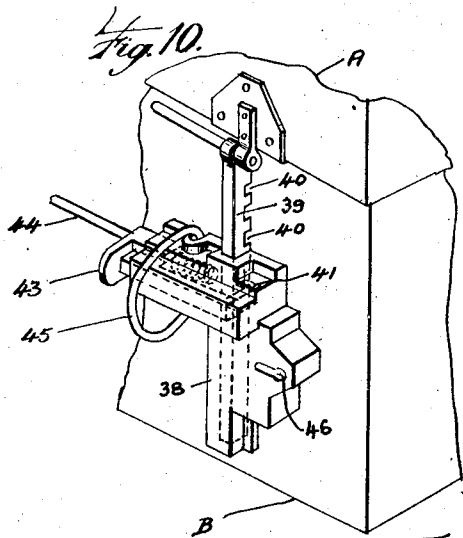
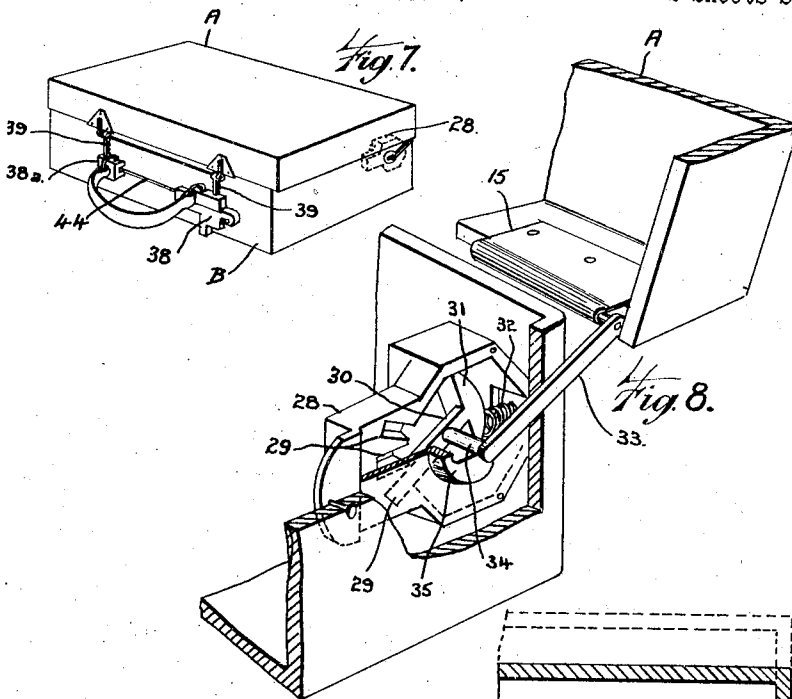
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*Invented!*

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*per C. H. R...*

*att'y*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK CECIL GADSBY, OF SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

SUITCASE, ATTACHÉ CASE, AND THE LIKE.

Application filed December 6, 1923. Serial No. 679,033.

This invention relates to suit cases, attaché-cases, hand bags and other similar containers. In the existing forms of construction of such cases and bags, it is often impossible to close and secure the lid should the container be packed slightly beyond its normal capacity.

The object of the invention is to effect certain improvements in the construction of containers of the type above referred to whereby the capacity of the container may be easily and quickly varied within predetermined limits by raising or lowering the hinge pivots of the container lid without detaching same from the container body, and whereby the lid in each of the various positions may be closed and easily secured in a position parallel to the body.

The invention comprises suitable means which may be applied either on the lock or hinge side of the container lid or on both sides thereof whereby the hinging and locking positions may be easily and securely adjusted to vary the capacity of the container.

In the accompanying drawings various suitable means for carrying out the invention are illustrated.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a suitable means for varying the position of the hinge pivots particularly applicable to cheaply constructed suit cases.

Figure 2 is a sectional plan of same.

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing a suitable compensating clasp device for securing and locking the lid in various positions.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a further method of varying the position of the hinge pivots;

Figure 5 is a sectional elevation of same;

Figure 6 is a sectional elevation of the locking bolt controlling member;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a complete suit case having thereon a further means for varying the position of the hinge pivots and variable position locking means;

Figure 8 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the suit case illustrated in Figure 7 showing in detail a method of varying the position of the hinge pivots particularly suitable for high class leather suit cases.

Figure 9 is a sectional elevation of same; and

Figure 10 is a perspective view showing

details of the locking device as applied to the suit case shown in Figure 7.

Throughout the specification the lid member is referred to as A and the body of the case as B.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2; a casing 11 containing the spring 12 is attached to the inside of the body B at the rear corners.

The spring 12 bears against the inwardly projecting end 13 of the member 14 which passes through the slot 16 in the body B and acts as a bearing for the hinge member 15 attached to the lid A.

The other end of the member 14 is turned inwards to form a locking bolt 17 which enters any one of a series of holes 18 formed in the body B, the interior side of the holes being preferably covered by a protective casing 19.

The method illustrated of removably housing the spikes 17 may obviously be varied, for example, the metal casing 19 may be on the outside of the body B and have holes 18 to receive the bolts 17.

In Figures 4 and 5 the hinges 15 are pivoted on inverted U shaped members 20 which pass over the back edge 21 of the body B and enter adjacent casings 22 affixed to the inside thereof. The parts of the members 20 within these casings are provided with recesses or notches 23 which are engaged by bolt members 24, which are provided with a suitable controlling device such as the finger pieces 25 by means of which the bolt members are withdrawn against the pressure of the spring 26 contained within the centrally disposed casing 27 attached to the bag. The members 20 are provided with stops 20<sup>a</sup> to prevent them from being withdrawn from the casing 23.

Referring to Figures 7, 8 and 9; a casing 28 is attached at each rear corner within the body B and within the casing are a number of radial slots 29 adapted to receive the tail piece 30 of a segmental thrust block 31 against which the spring 32 bears.

The hinge member 15 is pivoted to the link 33 which is in turn attached to the tail piece 30 by the member 34 which passes through the body B and cover 35 of the casing 28.

One form of lock or catch adapted to permit the front portion of the lid to assume positions corresponding with the varying positions of the hinged portion is shown in Figure 3 and consists in forming additional

holes 36 in the strap 37 of a catch of well known type.

In Figure 10 another compensating locking device is shown consisting of a casing 38 attached to the body B of the bag and a locking member 39 pivotally attached to the lid A.

The member 39 has recesses or the like 40 into any one of which as required the bolt 41 may enter. This compensating locking device is similar to the hinge varying device illustrated in Figure 4.

The bolt 41 is normally kept in its engaged position by the spring 42 and is withdrawn therefrom by the operation of the finger piece 43. A similar bolt in the casing 38<sup>a</sup> (see Figure 7) is operated with the bolt 41 by means of the rod 44. Provision may be made in the casings 38 and 38<sup>a</sup> for the reception of the rings 45 to which the handle of the bag is attached and 46 is a key hole whereby the bolts may be retained in their respective recesses by the operation of a suitable lock and key.

In operation the capacity of the bag is increased by altering the relative positions of the hinge pivots. In Figures 1 and 2 the lid is pressed outwards to withdraw the bolts 17 from one or other of the holes 18. The bolts are then allowed to enter another pair of holes 18 and are retained therein by the action of the springs 12 on the members 14. In Figure 4, the finger pieces 25 are operated to withdraw the bolts 24 from the recesses, the lid is then raised or lowered and the bolts allowed to re-enter the recesses under the influence of the spring 27.

In Figures 8 and 9 the lid is pressed outwards so that the spring is compressed by the segmental block 31 and the tail piece 30 withdrawn clear of the slots 29.

On the lid being raised or lowered and re-

leased, the tail piece 30 enters one or other of the slots by reason of the spring 32 and the hinge pivots are securely held in their raised or lowered positions.

In all cases a corresponding alteration on the "catch" side of the lid is made by means of the arrangement shown in Figures 3 or 10, or by any other equivalent compensating device.

I claim:—

1. A suit case, attaché case or other like container consisting of a body member, a lid therefor, and means for varying the capacity of the container comprising a pair of hinge pivots on the lid attached to inverted U-shaped straps passing over the back of the body member and formed in the shape of a rack adapted to slide within corresponding adjacent casings attached to the interior of the bag body, locking bolts in said casings and adapted to engage the teeth of said racks and a spring controlled bolt release device situated centrally between said casings and adapted upon operation to withdraw simultaneously the locking bolts in said casings, and means for fastening the front of the lid in a position corresponding to the position of the hinge pivots.

2. A suit case, attaché case or other like container as set out in claim 1 in which the means for securing the front of the lid comprise a pair of racks hinged to the front side of lid or cover, corresponding adjacent casings secured to the body of the container, lock bolts adapted to engage said racks and spring controlled means on the front of the body of the container for simultaneously withdrawing said lock bolts.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

FREDERICK CECIL GADSBY.