

April 9, 1946.

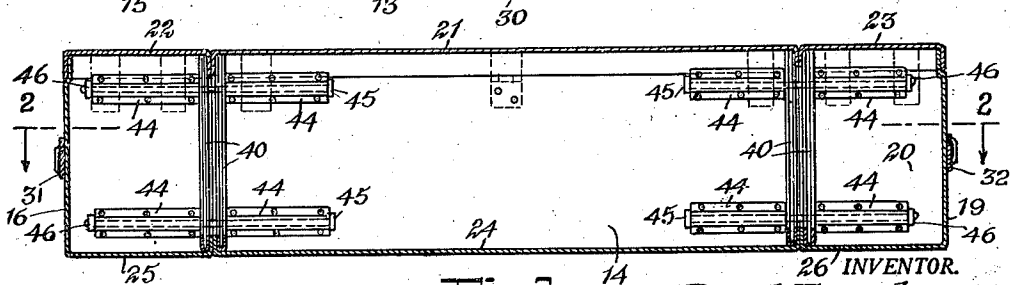
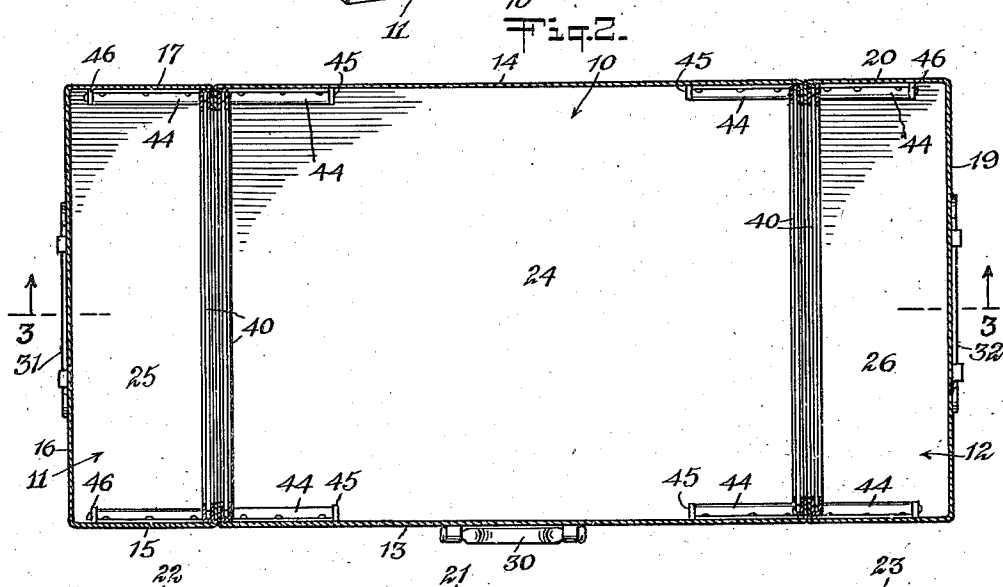
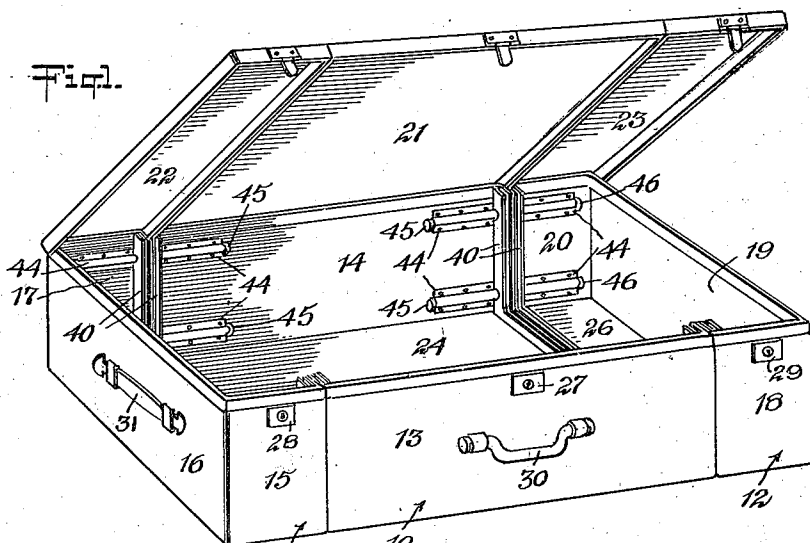
P. FRANDSEN

2,398,299

SECTIONAL SUITCASE

Filed Aug. 22, 1944

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



WITNESSES

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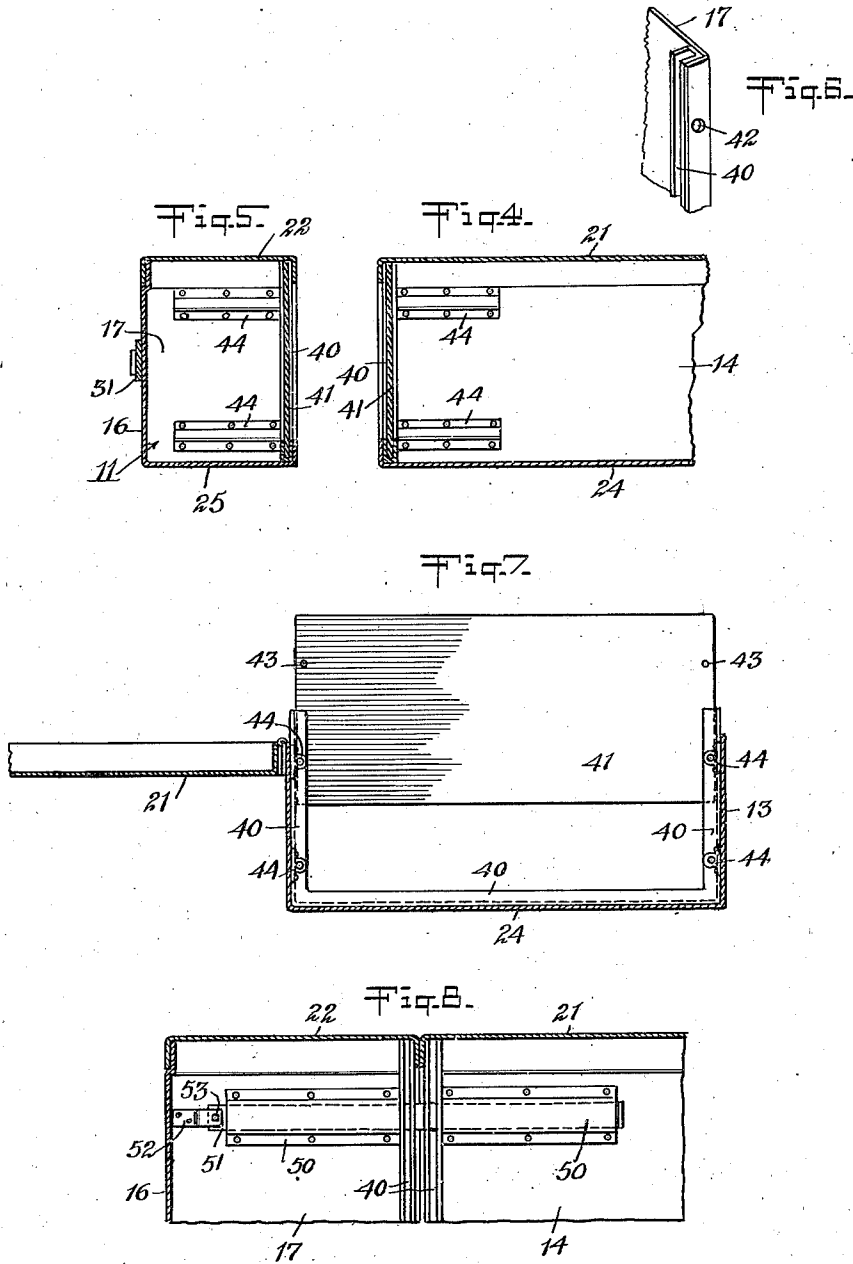
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,398,299

SECTIONAL SUITCASE

Pearl Frandsen, New York, N. Y.

Application August 22, 1944, Serial No. 550,546

1 Claim. (Cl. 190—21)

The present invention relates to suitcases and similar luggage.

One of its objects is to provide a piece of luggage which consists of a plurality of sections or units which may be used singly, as small individual units, or together, as a large composite unit.

Another object is the provision of a piece of luggage which consists of a plurality of sections or units which may be joined to form either a compartmented unit or a unit having no separate compartments.

A further object is to provide a piece of luggage having a plurality of separate compartments, to any one of which access may be gained without opening or disturbing the rest.

Still another object is the provision of a plurality of pieces of luggage which may be joined to form a large single piece of luggage having an outer appearance which does not differ substantially from the appearance of standard luggage.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a composite suitcase constructed in accordance with the present specification;

Figure 2 is a horizontal section of the suitcase, on the line 2—2 of Figure 3;

Figure 3 is a longitudinal vertical section of the suitcase, on the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary, vertical section of the center unit of the suitcase;

Figure 5 is a vertical section of one of the side units of the suitcase;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the partition receiving channels;

Figure 7 is a transverse vertical section of the suitcase showing one of the partitions partly in and partly out of its receiving channel; and

Figure 8 is a detailed sectional view showing how the units of Figures 4 and 5 are joined, by means of a modified form of coupling device.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings, there are three individual sections or units, a large center unit 10 and two small side units 11 and 12 respectively. The center unit has no permanent side walls at all. It does have a front and a rear wall 13 and 14 respectively. The side units have no permanent inner side wall. Side unit 11 has a front wall 15, an outer side wall 16 and a rear wall 17. Side unit 12 has a front wall 18, an outer side wall 19 and a rear wall 20.

Each unit has a permanent hinged cover, center unit 10 having cover 21, side unit 11 having cover 22 and side unit 12 having cover 23. Each unit

has its own bottom or floor, center unit 10 having floor 24, side unit 11 having floor 25 and side unit 12 having floor 26.

Each unit carries its own latching and locking device. Center unit 10 is provided with lock 27, side unit 11 is provided with lock 28 and side unit 12 is provided with lock 29, and each unit has its own handle. Center unit 10 has a heavy load carrying handle 30 and side units 11 and 12 have strap handles 31 and 32 respectively.

Each unit is provided at its open side or sides with a U shaped channel member 40 which is U shaped in cross section. This member is affixed to the bottom and front and rear walls by means of any conventional fastening means, such as rivets or an adhesive or by sewing. This member may be made of leather, plastic or metal or of any other suitable material.

Adapted to slide into said channel member to form a dust proof and water-tight closure therewith, is a rectangular partition member 41 whose length and height correspond to the length and height of the channel formed within said channel member and whose thickness corresponds to the width of said channel. This partition member may be made of leather, wood, plastic or metal or of any other suitable material. It should, preferably, be covered with the same material that covers the piece of luggage itself, such as fabricoid, or leather or fabric.

Channel members 40 and partition members 41 are provided with registering apertures 42 and 43 respectively.

Affixed as by rivets or other suitable means, to the front and rear walls of each of said units, adjacent and at right angles to said channel members, and in line with said apertures, are flanged tube-like sockets or channels 44 which are adapted to carry barrel bolts 45. These sockets may be made of metal or plastic or of any other suitable material. The barrel bolts are of a length to extend through two coaxial sockets and two channel members 40. They are threaded at their end portions to receive nuts 46. The function of these barrel bolt and socket members is to secure the several units together to form one composite whole. This is shown in Figure 1.

A modified form of these securing members is shown in Figure 8. The socket members 50 have a rectangular, instead of tubular channel, adapted to accommodate flat, strap-like barrel bolts 51. A flexible locking strap 52 affixed at one end as by rivets, to the wall of the unit in question, and at the other end, as by a snap or button fastener 53 to the bolt, fixes said bolt against displacement.

When all three units, for example, are used as a single composite unit, the partitions 41 may be used or not, depending on whether it is desired to have a large unobstructed space within the suitcase, or a plurality of partitioned spaces therein.

The foregoing is a description of a preferred embodiment of the invention only. Modifications may be incorporated therein without departing from the broad principles thereof.

I claim:

An article of luggage comprising a plurality of separable units and means to secure said units together, each of said units consisting of a bot-

5 tom, outer walls, a hinged cover, latching means and a handle, each of said units having affixed thereto on the inside of said outer walls and bottom and adjacent its adjoining unit, a U shaped channel member which is U shaped in cross section, each said channel member carrying a removable partition member, said securing means comprising a plurality of barrel bolt and socket members carried on the inside of said outer walls, 10 the bolt elements thereof passing through registering apertures in said channel and partition members.

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