Dec. 4, 1951 E. E. ADAMS 2,577,670

MULTICOMPARTMENT TRAVELING BAG

Filed Nov. 3, 1950 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

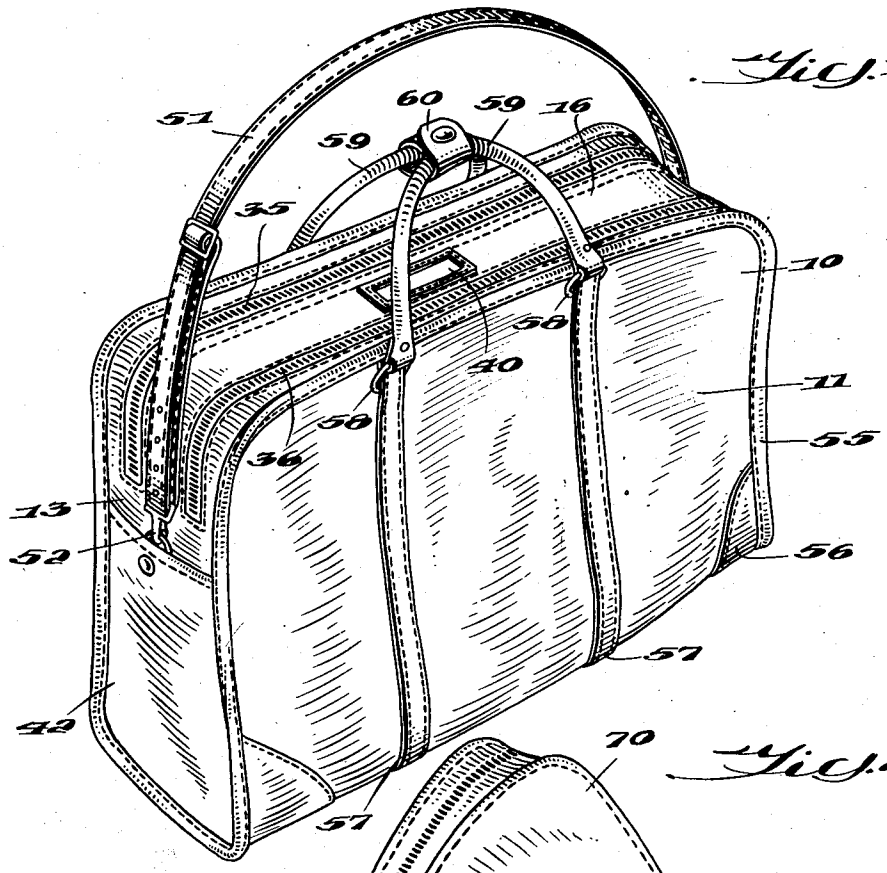
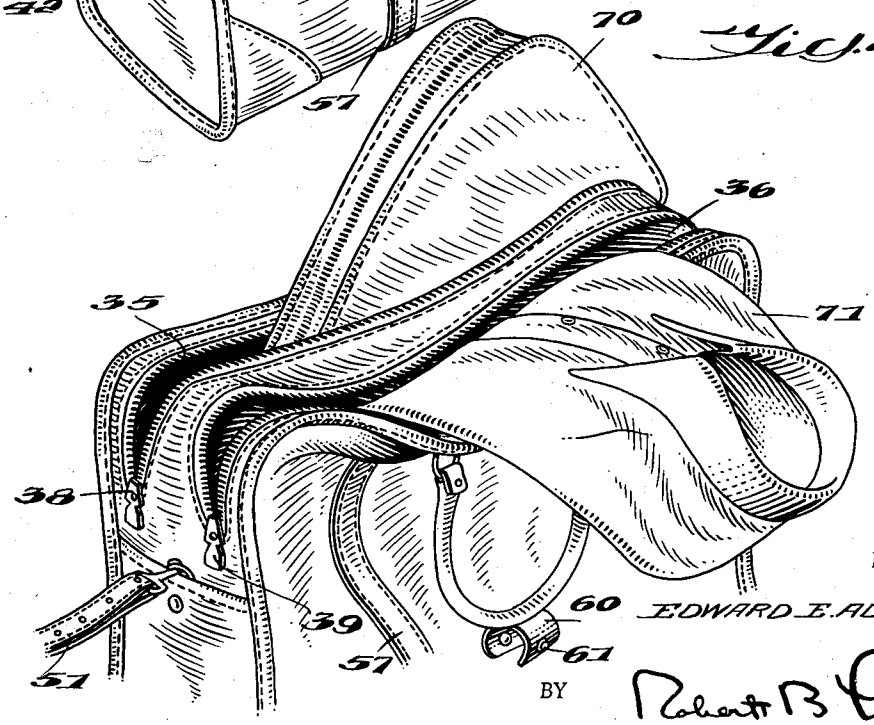


Fig. 2.



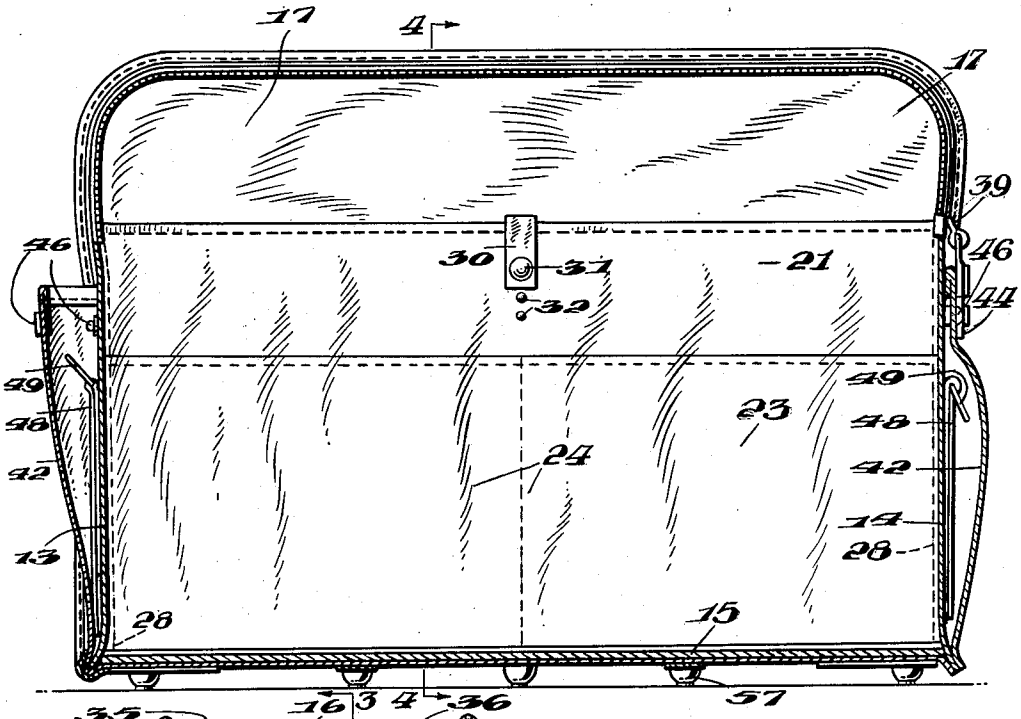
INVENTOR
EDWARD E. ADAMS,
BY Robert B Pearson
ATTORNEY

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MULTICOMPARTMENT TRAVELING BAG

Filed Nov. 3, 1950 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

Fig. 3.



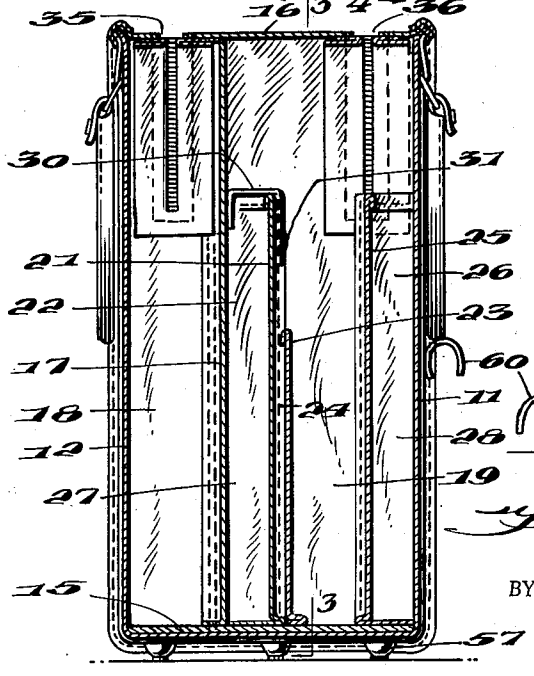
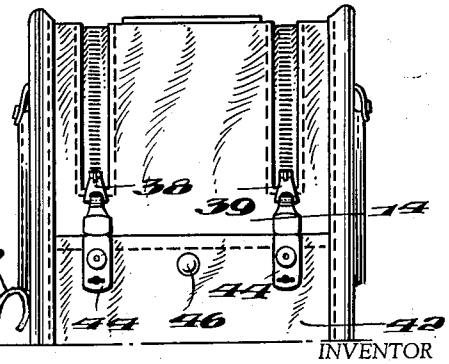


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR
EDWARD E. ADAMS,

Fig. 4.

BY Robert B Pearson
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,577,670

MULTICOMPARTMENT TRAVELING BAG

Edward E. Adams, Washington, D. C.

Application November 3, 1950, Serial No. 193,990

6 Claims. (Cl. 190—48)

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This invention relates to a traveling bag, and more particularly to a bag which is designed with the present day traveler and his needs in mind.

The objects of the invention are to provide a traveling bag of flexible material, said bag having pairs of parallel end and side walls and parallel top and bottom walls, a fixed internal partition extending from the bottom wall to the top wall, said partition being parallel with said side walls and positioned nearer one side wall than the other to divide the interior of the bag longitudinally into a large compartment and a small compartment for receiving a brief case or the like, said top wall having a pair of openings extending longitudinally the entire length of the top wall and extending a short distance only down each end wall, one of said openings lying on each side of said partition to provide access to each compartment individually, closure means for closing each opening separately, and end pockets which contain connection straps for the detachable connection of a shoulder strap. By placing these connection straps within the end pockets, a smooth end surface is provided, and the likelihood that these straps will catch on objects which the user brushes against, will be eliminated.

These and other objects of the invention will be apparent from a reading of the following specification, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a traveling bag constructed in accordance with a preferred form of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the upper portion of the bag, showing the two slide fasteners in open position, and showing a briefcase extending out of the small compartment and a man's shirt extending out of the large compartment;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section taken through the bag of Fig. 1 approximately through the middle of the large compartment as indicated by line 3—3 in Fig. 4;

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is an end elevational view of a portion of the bag, showing the slide fasteners engaging retaining means carried by the upper edge of one of the end flaps.

Referring now to the drawings in greater detail, the figures show a bag generally designated by the reference numeral 10, and which has a pair of side walls 11 and 12, a pair of end walls 13 and 14, a bottom wall 15, and a top wall 16. In

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the interior of the bag there is a main partition 17 which extends longitudinally of the bag and is attached to the top, bottom and end walls of the bag so that it completely separates the interior of the bag into a small compartment 18 and a large compartment 19. In the large compartment 19 there are several smaller partitions which are attached to the bottom wall 15 of the bag and are attached to their ends adjacent the ends of main partition 17 or side wall 11 of the bag. One of these smaller partitions is shown at 21, this partition extending less than the full height of the bag so as to form a pocket 22 between partition 21 and main partition 17. Another smaller partition 23 is attached to the partition 21 at its end and central portions by means of stitching so as to form two smaller pockets which have been given the reference numeral 24, these pockets lying between partition 23 and partition 21. Another smaller partition, similar in size to partition 21, is shown at 25, and this partition is attached at its bottom and end portions to side wall 11 of the bag so as to form a pocket 26. Pockets 22 and 26 are given substantial dept from left to right as viewed in Fig. 4 by the provision of end walls 27 and 28 for these pockets, these end walls serving as the means for attaching the end edges of partitions 21 and 25 to main partition 17 and side wall 11 of the bag, respectively. A strap 30 is attached to the upper portion of partition 17 by stitching or other suitable means at about the height of the upper edge of partition 21, and the free end of strap 30 carries a female type of snap fastener 31 which is adapted to cooperate with any one of three male fasteners 32 spaced vertically near the upper edge of partition 21. Strap 30 provides a convenient means for fastening the upper central portion of partition 21 to the main partition 17 so as to prevent partition 21 from being bulged out too greatly by clothing or other articles placed therein.

Access to the small and large compartments 18 and 19 is provided by means of a pair of longitudinally extending openings 35 and 36 located in top wall 16 of the bag on either side of main partition 17. These openings extend the entire length of the top wall of the bag and a short distance down the end walls of the bag as is readily apparent from the drawings. This disposition and formation of the access openings is very important, since by extending these openings a short distance only down each end wall of the bag, wider openings of the top of the bag is possible for more convenient access to the interior

thereof, but the determination of the access openings at the points shown, rather than extending these openings the entire distance to the bottom wall of the bag, as would be more conventional, not only prevents one from opening the bag so widely as to spill contents out of one end, but this disposition of the openings also has an important cooperation with other end structure of the bag, as will be explained.

The access openings **35** and **36** are most conveniently closed by means of individually operable slide fasteners, the sliding elements of which are shown at **38** and **39**. As is obvious from Figs. 2 and 5, sliding elements **38** and **39** lie at one end of the access openings **35** and **36** when these openings are wide open, and they lie at the other end of these openings when in the fully closed position.

Centrally of the top wall **16** of the bag and between the two access openings there may be conveniently located a frame **40** for receiving an identification card. This frame is of the usual type with a transparent window. Such a frame is shown in Fig. 1.

Along each end wall **13**, **14**, of the bag there is disposed an upwardly extending end flap **42** which is attached to the bag along its side and bottom edges, but is free of attachement on its upper edge, thus forming with the end walls of the bag a pair of end pockets. The end flaps **42** are considerably smaller in the vertical dimension than the end walls of the bag, and the upper edges of the end flaps **42** lie slightly below the ends of the access openings **35** and **36**. By placing the upper edges of the end flaps at this location, the end flaps do not interfere with the opening and spreading apart of the upper portions of the bag for convenient access to the interior, and one of the end flaps then provides a most convenient means for carrying locks **44** along its upper edge for engagement by the sliding elements **38**, **39**, when in their completely closed position.

The upper end portions of flaps **42** and the adjacent portions of the end walls **13**, **14**, of the bag also carry cooperating snap fastener means **46** for closing the upper portion of the pocket when desired.

Within each of the pockets formed by end flaps **42** is a connection strap **48** which is attached to the end walls **13** and **14** of the bag. At the upper end of each connection strap is an attachment ring **49**, these rings lying below the upper edges of the end flaps **42**, as shown most accurately in Fig. 3. Rings **49** serve as a means for attaching to the bag a shoulder strap **51** which is adjustable in length, and which carries at its ends conventional, readily disengageable fastening means **52**, which, in the embodiment shown in the drawings, comprise hooks with a resilient tongue which assures against accidental disengagement of the hooks from the rings **49**.

It will be seen from the drawings that the edges of the bag are reinforced by a binding of leather or other appropriate material as shown at **55**. Reinforcements **56** are provided at each corner, and the bottom of the bag is provided with suitable protecting buttons **57**, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

A pair of reinforcing straps **57** pass around the side and bottom walls of the bag. These straps are sewn to the bag walls continuously except at their upper end portions on each side of the bag, where they are free of attachment so as to receive loose leaf rings **58** to which are attached a pair of hand grips **59**. When not in use, these hand grips fall loosely along the outer surfaces of the side walls of the bag, as shown in Fig. 4, and when in use, they may be held together by means of a short strap **60** which is sewn to one of the hand grips, and has strap fastener means **61** by which the ends of strap **60** can be held together after fastening the strap around the other hand grip. Fig. 1 shows the hand grips in carrying position, held together by the small strap **60**.

I wish to point out that, while I have referred in the above description to side, end, top and bottom walls of the bag, these terms do not mean that each of the various walls is made of a separate piece of material. On the other hand, it is preferable in commercial production of the bag to make the two side walls and the bottom walls of one continuous piece of material, preferably cloth or leather, and to make the top and end walls of one continuous piece of material. Therefore, the reference in the specification and the claims to various walls is for the purpose of indicating the shape of the bag and the disposition of the various parts, rather than indicating that each wall is a separate piece from the other walls, although the bag could be made with the various walls of separate pieces of material without departing from the scope of the invention.

From the above description and the drawings, it will be clear that I have at least provided a bag which meets substantially all of the requirements of the modern day business man for short, unexpected trips, as well as other types of traveling. The small compartment of the bag, as shown at **18**, is particularly intended and dimensioned for receiving a standard size briefcase which can be placed in the bag and removed therefrom without requiring access to the large compartment **19** of the bag, and without exposing the contents of the large compartment. In Fig. 2 I have shown a briefcase **70** being placed in the bag, and in this same figure I have shown a man's shirt **71** partly removed from the bag.

The pockets in the large compartment **19** make it convenient to carry various articles of clothing and personal effects in this compartment, and these articles may be reached without exposing the contents of the small compartment **18**.

The end pockets provided by the end flaps **42** are a most convenient and readily accessible place for carrying elongated articles such as newspapers, timetables and the like, and these flaps also cover the connecting strap and ring arrangement **48**, **49**, thus improving the appearance of the bag and decreasing the possibility that the ring might become caught on some article which the user brushes against while carrying the bag. In this connection, the entire bag is singularly free of external structure which would be likely to be caught in such a manner, with the resulting delay to a hurrying traveler, and the possibility that the bag might be damaged. A great convenience and novelty is the fact that the upper edge of one of the flaps **42** carries the locking means **44** which are engageable by the sliding elements **39** of the slide fastener.

The use of slide fasteners with this bag provides a more complete and secure closing of the access openings **35** and **36**, and, as is well known, such fasteners are highly convenient to use.

The bag can be carried either by hand, using the hand grips **59**, or over the shoulder, using shoulder strap **51** attached to the rings **49**. The shoulder strap and hand grips are not ordinarily both in the operative position at the same time, as shown in Fig. 1, although if there is a possi-

bility that it will be necessary to shift from shoulder to hand carriage of the bag, they can be so used. If the shoulder strap is not needed, it can be detached from rings 49, folded up, and placed in one of the end pockets formed by end flaps 43. When so carried, one end of the strap may conveniently be left connected to the ring 49 of the pocket in which the strap is carried, thus eliminating the possibility that the strap might be lost by falling out of the pocket. When the hand grips 59 are not needed, they may be dropped to the sides of the bag after unfastening strap 60, as shown in Fig. 4.

The material out of which the bag is made can be heavy cloth, although it may be convenient to make the bag out of synthetic plastic materials or leather, as long as the material is flexible.

In an embodiment of the invention which has been found to be highly useful, the bag was made with an overall length of about 18 inches, a thickness of about 6½ inches, and a height of about 13 inches. The main partition 17 in this bag is positioned about 2 inches from side wall 12. Partitions 21 and 25 extend upwardly a distance of about 10 inches from the bottom of the bag, and the small partition 23 extends upwardly a distance of about 6 inches from the bottom of the bag. The smaller compartment thus provided readily receives a standard briefcase which can carry legal size papers.

I wish it to be understood that I have described above only a preferred embodiment of the invention, this embodiment being described for illustrative purposes, and not with the idea of limiting the invention thereto. It should be understood that it is my intention to cover by my patent all variations of the above embodiment which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A traveling bag for use with a carrying strap, said bag being made of flexible material and having pairs of parallel end and side walls and parallel top and bottom walls, a fixed internal partition extending from the bottom wall to the top wall, said partition being parallel with said side walls and positioned nearer one side wall than the other to divide the interior of the bag longitudinally into a large compartment and a small compartment, said top wall having a pair of openings extending longitudinally the entire length of the top wall and extending a short distance only down each end wall, one of said openings lying on each side of said partition to provide access to each compartment individually, closure means for closing each opening separately, outer end flaps lying along each end wall of the bag, with their upper edge lying below the ends of said openings, said end flaps having bottom and side edges attached to the bag and having upper edges free of attachment to the bag, thereby providing end pockets, and means attached to the end walls of said bag positioned in each pocket thus formed for detachable connection to a carrying strap for the bag.

2. A traveling bag according to claim 1, and said last named means comprising a pair of connection straps, one of which extends upwardly along and is attached to each end wall within said end pockets, and ring means at the upper end of each connection strap, said connection straps and end means lying entirely below the upper edges of said end flaps, so that said end flaps cover the connection straps and rings.

3. A traveling bag for use with a carrying strap, said bag being made of flexible material and having pairs of parallel end and side walls and parallel top and bottom walls, a fixed internal partition extending from the bottom wall to the top wall, said partition being parallel with said side walls and positioned nearer one side wall than the other to divide the interior of the bag longitudinally into a large compartment and a small compartment, said top wall having a pair of openings extending longitudinally the entire length of the top wall and extending a short distance only down each end wall, one of said openings lying on each side of said partition to provide access to each compartment individually, closure means for closing each opening separately, said closure means comprising slide fastener means having a sliding element for each opening which elements, in the completely closed position, are disposed at one end of each opening, at least one outer, end flap lying along an end wall of the bag and forming with the end wall a pocket open at the top, said end flap having an upper edge positioned below the lower ends of said openings, and means carried by said end flap for engaging said sliding elements and retaining said elements in said completely closed positions.

4. A traveling bag according to claim 3, for use with a carrying strap, there being one of said end flaps at each end of the bag, and means attached to the bag and lying wholly within each pocket thus formed for detachable connection to a carrying strap for the bag.

5. A traveling bag according to claim 4, and cooperating fastener means on the end walls of the bag and near the upper edges of said end flaps for closing said pockets by fastening the upper edges of the end flaps to the bag end walls.

6. A traveling bag of flexible material, said bag having pairs of parallel end and side walls and parallel top and bottom walls, a fixed, internal main partition extending from the bottom wall to the top wall, said partition being parallel with said side walls and positioned nearer one side wall than the other to divide the interior of the bag into a large compartment principally intended for clothing and personal effects and a smaller compartment for receiving a standard size briefcase, at least one additional partition in said large compartment extending only part way from the bottom wall to the top wall and forming a pocket in said large compartment, said top wall having a pair of openings extending longitudinally the entire length of the top wall and extending a short distance only down each end wall, one of said openings lying on each side of said main partition to provide access to each compartment individually, slide fastener closure means for each opening and including sliding elements which lie at one end of said openings when in completely closed position, an external flap extending upwardly along each end wall of the bag from the lower edges of the end walls to points adjacent the ends of said openings, the side and bottom edges of said end flaps being attached to the bag and the upper edges of the flaps being free, thereby providing pockets at each end of the bag, one of said flaps carrying along its upper end portion means for engaging said sliding elements and retaining said elements in said completely closed positions, a pair of connection straps, one of which extends upwardly along and is attached to each end wall within said end pockets, ring means at the upper end of each connection strap for detachable connec-

tion with a shoulder strap, said connection straps and ring means lying wholly within said end pockets, and snap fastener means carried by the end walls and the upper edges of said end flaps for closing said pockets.

EDWARD E. ADAMS.

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