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WARDROBE LUGGAGE HAVING SEPARABLE CASE PORTIONS

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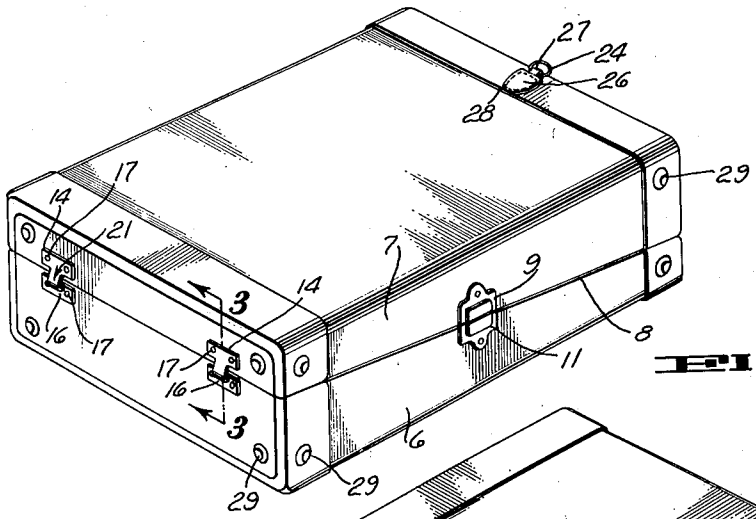


FIG. 1.

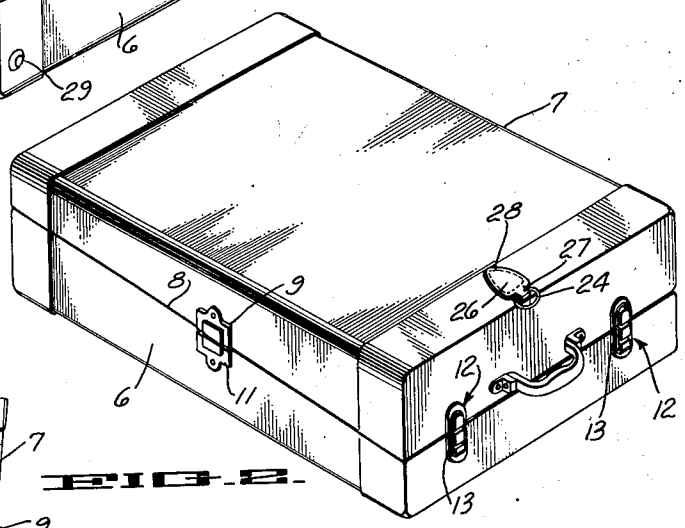


FIG. 2.

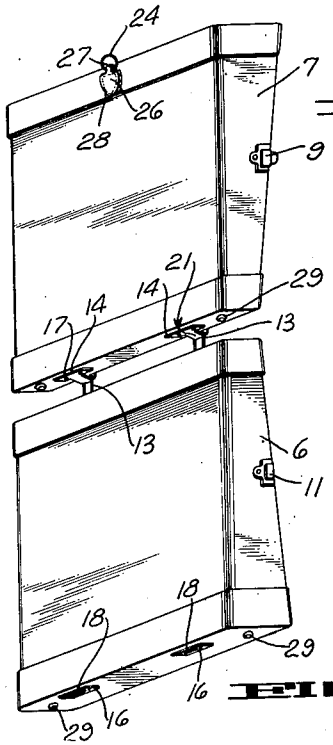


FIG. 5.

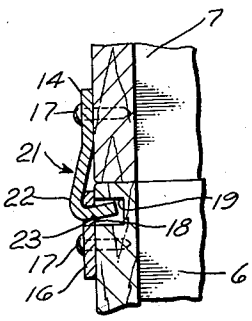


FIG. 3.

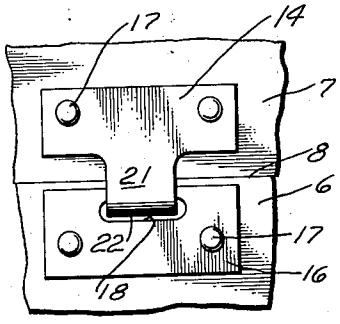


FIG. 4.

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WARDROBE LUGGAGE HAVING SEPARABLE CASE PORTIONS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

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This invention relates to storage devices, particularly luggage of the wardrobe type, equipped with in-built hangers on which suits or the like garments may be hung to protect the latter against excessive wrinkling when the article of luggage is in closed condition and, when open, to afford ready access to the various garments stored therein.

An object of the invention is to provide an article of luggage of the class described having relatively separable outer case portions capable of selective utilization either as a combined unit or as disconnected and remotely disposed components, provided with connector elements permitting ready separation and attachment of the portions, the connector elements being arranged to serve as support elements to maintain the portions in positions of stability.

Another object of the invention is to provide improved separable connector elements, joining adjacent sections of a luggage case, which are arranged for ready connection with dissimilar connectors joining other remote portions of the case so that the case when opened may be rearranged with the rejoined sections lying in relative adjacency without inversion of one section cavity relative to the other.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide, in an improved article of luggage of the character described, means permitting one or both sections of the luggage case to be hung from an elevated support so that the user will not be required to stoop or squat to remove articles from the wardrobe or to replace said articles.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of the preferred form of the invention which is illustrated in the drawings accompanying and forming part of the specification. It is to be understood, however, that variations in the showing made by said drawings and description may be adopted within the scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

Referring to the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, in bottom end aspect, of the improved wardrobe luggage of our invention.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 but taken in upper end aspect.

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view of a portion of the luggage taken in the plane indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a front elevational view of the structure shown in Figure 3.

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Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the luggage sections disconnected and rejoined to form a dispensing unit.

The features of construction comprising our invention are applicable to a wide variety of hand luggage or light trunks but we have chosen, for purposes of illustration, to depict their use in connection with the familiar type of valise-like article commonly referred to as a "fortnighter" and equipped with garment hangers and suitable storage compartments capable of compacting and enclosing several complete changes of costume and other accessories. Here we have shown such an article of luggage comprising a body formed by superposed case and cover sections 6 and 7 respectively disposed in contiguous registration along a parting plane 8 defining the marginal rims of the storage recesses of the sections. Conventional lug and recess fittings 9 and 11 respectively, as shown in Figure 5, are provided along the parting plane 8 at opposite sides of the body and which interengage when the case and cover sections are brought together to effect proper registration between the sections. Fasteners 12, most generally of the type employing toggle loops 13, are provided at the upper end of the body, as shown in Figure 2, and bridge the parting plane 8 to secure together the registered sections. The portions of the fasteners 12, to which the loops 13 are attached, are preferably mounted on the case section 6 of the luggage, for a reason which will be later explained. Ordinarily the opposite or bottom end of the body, as best shown in Figure 1, is fitted with common hinges which bridge the parting plane 8 and pivotally connect the case and cover sections so that the luggage may be opened to expose the recesses of the sections in side by side relation. In the space of an average day, a traveller may have recourse to his wardrobe luggage several times, either to effect a change of costume or to acquire some particular accessory. The conventional hinged wardrobe bag occupies entirely too much space to be conveniently left in an open flat condition, affording ready access to the contents, and cannot be stood up vertically due to its top-heaviness and inherent instability. Therefore, what should be a relatively simple procedure usually evolves into the tedious and time-consuming task of opening the luggage, searching for and removing the desired article, replacing those articles removed in the quest for the former article and reclosing the luggage.

The improved luggage of our invention ob-

viates the above-mentioned undesirable features and, among other things, provides a wardrobe container which may readily be set up in a stable condition without occupying an inconvenient amount of room. As will be seen in Figures 1, 3 and 4 we provide a pair of quick detachable connectors each of which comprises a pair of metallic base plates 14 and 16 which are respectively secured, by rivets 17 or otherwise, in relatively confronting relation to the cover section 7 and to the case section 6 on opposite sides of the parting plane 8. The base plate 16 has formed therein a vertically narrow and horizontally elongated aperture 18 which overlies a recess 19 formed in the end wall member of the case section 6. The base plate 14 is provided with a tongue 21, extending from the side thereof confronting the base plate 16, which tongue is formed with a medial portion 22 bent angularly outwardly from the plane of the base plate 14, so as to permit the tongue to pass over the base plate 16 exteriorly of the latter, and with a distal end portion bent to lie at an acute angle with respect to the medial portion 22 so as to form a hook 23 extending through the aperture 18. The arrangement of the parts is such that when the case and cover sections of the luggage are engaged, as shown in Figure 3, the inner bend surface of the hook will lie snugly against the confronting side of the aperture 18 while an outer portion of the base plate 16 will impinge against the side of the medial portion 22 which faces the outer side wall surface of the cover section 7. It will therefore be seen that, as viewed in Figure 3, if force is exerted tending to shift the cover 7 to the right longitudinally relative to the case section 6, the interengagement of the tongue 21 with the base plate 16 will prevent any displacement. If the force tends to move the cover toward the left relative to the case section, the resultant upward thrust of the case section against the rim of the cover section, by virtue of the base plate 16 riding upwardly along the inclined surface of the hook with which it is intimately engaged, will create a tight wedging together of the case and cover sections and will limit to a very slight degree the possible displacement therebetween. Deliberate detachment of the cover from the case section may be readily accomplished by releasing the fasteners 12, swinging the cover upwardly a matter of about forty-five degrees and sliding the hooks 23 rearwardly out of the aperture 18. If the luggage is standing in upright position, with the end thereof uppermost which carries the fasteners 12, relative separation of the sections may as readily be accomplished by loosening the fasteners, relatively tilting the sections away from each other and lifting the case section 6 so as to free the hooks 23 from their attachment apertures 18. A reversal of the procedure effects rapid reengagement of the sections.

An article of luggage, such as that above described, which is capable of separation into two independent sections, provides far greater flexibility of use and of handling than the conventional similar articles composed of integrally joined relatively hinged sections. In many instances, preparation of luggage for a trip requires that the contents be assembled from more than one location in the home, particularly if the same article of luggage is to be shared by two people. With conventional luggage, this means that perhaps half of the garments must be secured from one location and carried to the other at which the luggage is situated or the luggage after being partially filled at one location must be carried to the second location to complete the packing. Quite frequently, the operations of packing luggage are carried out by the lady of the house and the last-mentioned procedure imposes a severe burden upon her. Furthermore, the conventional luggage of unitary construction does not permit efficient packing thereof simultaneously by more than one person so that the packing operation is unduly extended. Due to the fact that the respective sections of the improved luggage of our invention are relatively separable, one person may be engaged in packing one section while a second person packs the other section at the same or a different location without creating any hindrance to the operations of the first person. Relative separability of the luggage sections also affords the convenience, after the parties arrive at their destination, of one party being enabled to carry his or her belongings intact to quarters which may be separated from the quarters of the other party. In any event, the two sections of the luggage may be separated, rested in erect positions against a wall or other support, thus greatly minimizing obstruction to free movements of persons within the immediately surrounding space.

As shown in Figure 5, means are provided operable in conjunction with inherent structural parts of the luggage for permitting the two relatively separated sections to be rearranged and rejoined so as to be supported as a unit with the recess openings of the respective sections in side by side relation. The upper end of the cover section 7, which carries the elements of the fasteners 12 cooperative with the locking loops 13, is fitted with a hanger ring 24 suitably pivotally connected to the cover such as by means of the leather strip 26 doubled to form an eye 27 enclosing the band of the ring and suitably secured to the cover by stitching 28 or the like. By means of the ring 24, the cover section 7 may be hung from a closet clothes hook or the like in an elevated position wherein the contents of the luggage section may be conveniently reached without the user being required to stoop or squat. It will be noted that the relative spacing between the hook elements 23 is made substantially equivalent to that between the fasteners 12. This affords means whereby the loop elements 13 of the fasteners may be engaged, if desired, with the hook elements 23 of the elevated cover section 7 so that both luggage sections will thereafter be hung as a readily accessible unit with both recesses exposed in side-by-side relation. It will also be seen that the luggage sections, when rejoined in unitary relation, as shown in Figure 5, are not reversed end-for-end from the positions they occupy when the luggage is in closed condition. It will be evident, by referral to Figure 5, that from said closed condition with the luggage resting in erect position on the supporting pads 29, the operations of separating the sections as before described, raising the cover section vertically and rotating the latter through 180 degrees about a vertical axis, will bring the hooks into position to engage the loops 13 without having vertically inverted the cover section. This is of value since in many articles of wardrobe luggage the respective sections are equipped with inbuilt garment hangers at relatively adjacent ends which means defeats any attempt to hang such conventional luggage as shown in Figure 5,

since the hangers of one section would be at the upper end of the recess while the remaining hangers would improperly be at the bottom end of the other recess.

It will be further noted that the base plates 16 and the protruding medial portions 22 associated with the base plates 14 serve as rest pads spaced from and cooperative with the pads 29 to lend stability to the respective luggage sections when the latter are being used separately and when they are placed in longitudinally erect positions.

It will be seen, from the foregoing description of our invention, that we have provided novel luggage construction characterized by greater flexibility of use than conventional luggage of comparative types, by lessening inconvenience when the same luggage unit is shared by more than one person, and providing for disposition of the luggage sections as a conveniently assembled and elevated unit affording materially greater accessibility to the storage recesses of the respective sections.

We claim:

1. In a storage device having a case section having a chamber therein and a cover section engageable in a parting plane with said case section and closing said chamber, interlocking connector elements carried by the case and cover sections at one end thereof and bridging said parting plane, said connector elements comprising separate base members secured to said end of the respective sections, one of said base members having an aperture therein overlying a recess formed in the end portion of one of said sections and the other of said base members being provided with a tongue extending toward and over said first base member and having a distal hooked end entering said aperture and recess and disposed to lie at a convergent angle with respect to said parting plane, said aperture being of a size just sufficient to receive said distal hooked end of said tongue whereby relative movement of said sections normal to said parting plane is prevented, interengageable fastener elements carried by the case and cover sections at another end thereof and bridging said parting plane for securing together said sections, and said fastener elements when interengaged retaining said distal hooked end in said aperture.

2. A storage device comprising a case section having a recess therein, a cover section engageable in a parting plane with said case section and closing said recess, spaced interlocking connector elements, said connector elements comprising separate base members secured to one end of the respective sections, an extension of one of said base members of each pair thereof extending toward the other base member of each pair thereof and provided with a hooked portion engageable with said other base member, spaced

fastener elements carried by the case and cover sections at another end thereof, said fastener elements having loop connectors arranged to bridge said parting plane and engageable with other portions of said fastener elements for securing together said sections, said loop connectors being mounted on one of the storage device sections, said hooked portions being mounted on the other of said sections, and said loop connectors having substantially equal relative spacing to that of the hooked portions whereby the latter may be engaged with the loop connectors when the sections are relatively separated so as to rejoin the latter in side by side relation.

3. A storage device comprising a case section having a recess therein, a cover section engageable in a parting plane with said case section and closing said recess, spaced interlocking connector elements, said connector elements comprising separate base members secured to one end of the respective sections, an extension of one of said base members of each pair thereof extending toward the other base member of each pair thereof and provided with a hooked portion engageable with said other base member, spaced fastener elements carried by the case and cover sections at another end thereof, said fastener elements having loop connectors arranged to bridge said parting plane and engageable with other portions of said fastener elements for securing together said sections, said loop connectors being mounted on one of the storage device sections, said hooked portions being mounted on the other of said sections, a ring member carried by said cover section at an end thereof opposite said hooked portion for hanging said cover section in an elevated position, and said loop connectors having substantially equal relative spacing to that of the hooked portions whereby the latter may be engaged with the loop connectors when the sections are relatively separated so as to hang the case section from the hanging cover section.

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