Sept. 12, 1933. J. M. BEARD 1,926,134

SUPPORT OR HOLDER FOR WARDROBE TRUNKS

Filed Oct. 7, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

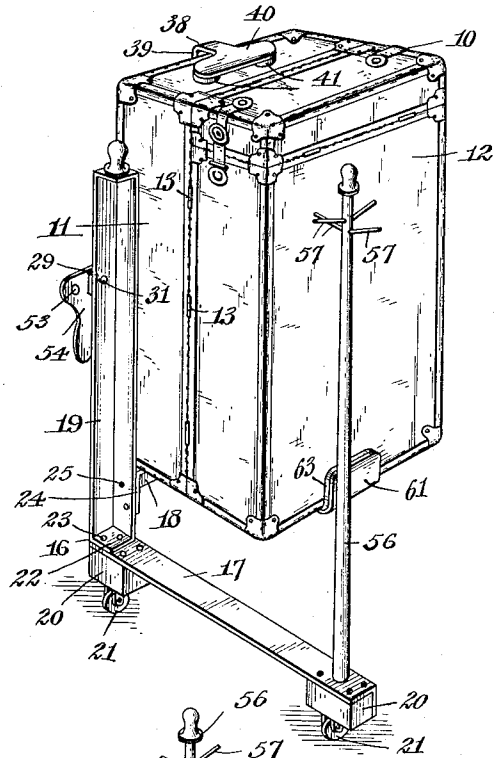
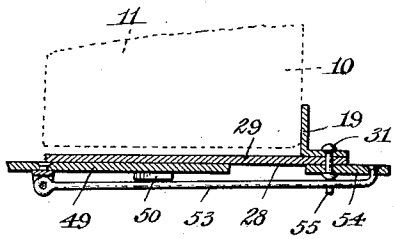


Fig. 3.



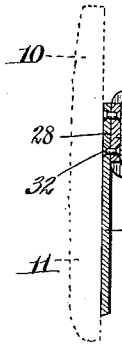


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

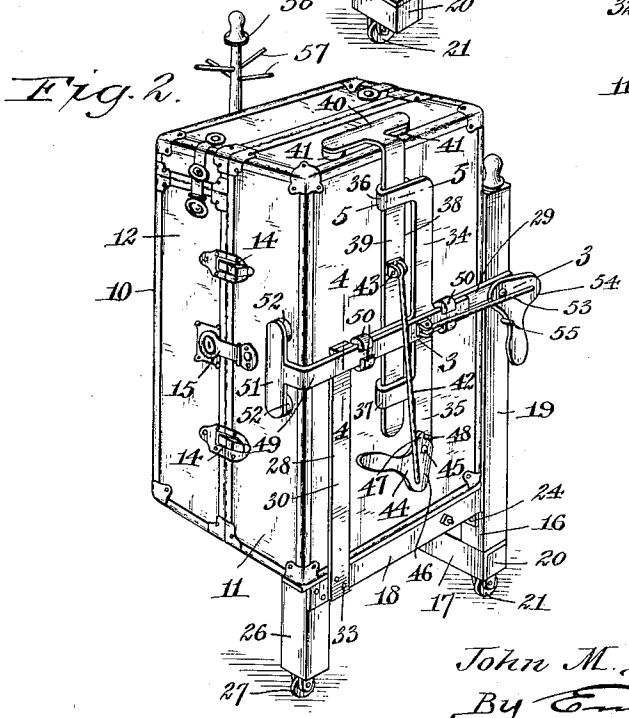
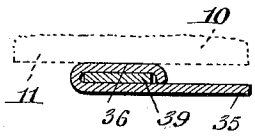


Fig. 5.



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Filed Oct. 7, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 6

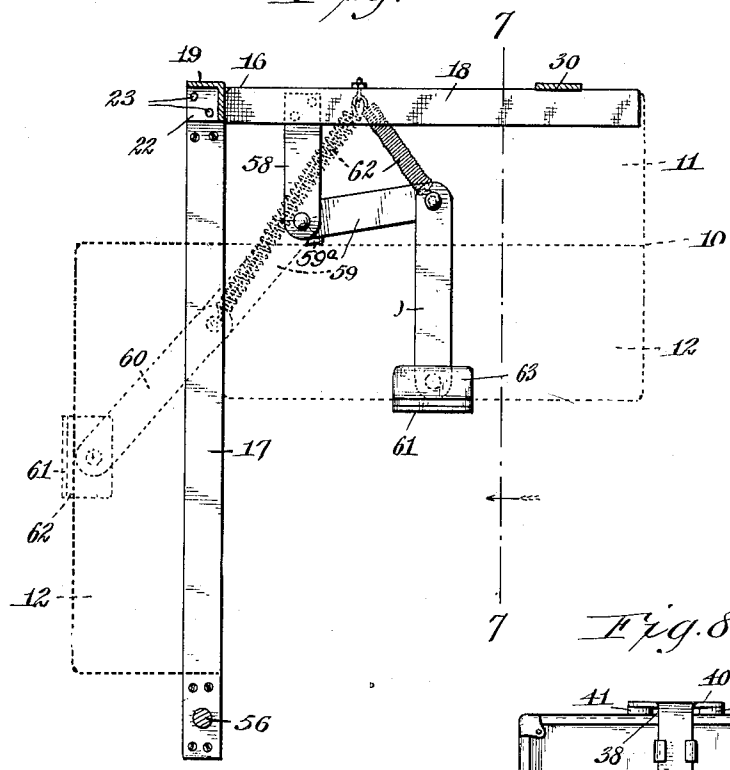


Fig. 7

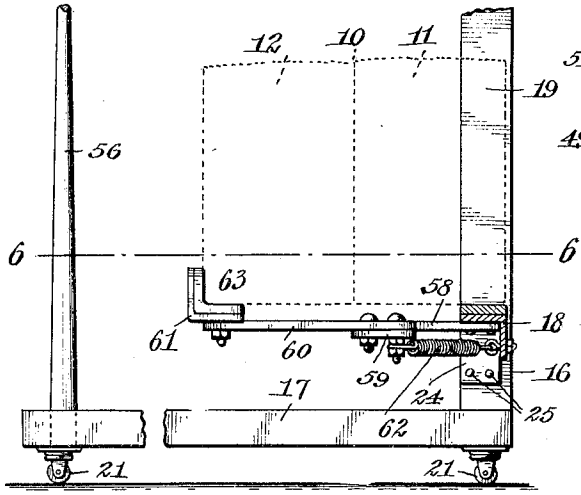
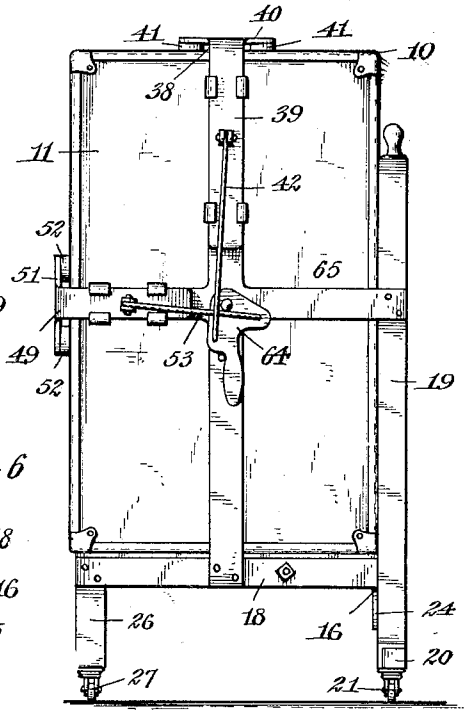


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SUPPORT OR HOLDER FOR WARDROBE TRUNKS

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12 Claims. (Cl. 190—38)

My invention relates to improvements in supports or holders for wardrobe trunks.

Wardrobe trunks are invariably set on end, and one type of such trunks now in general use comprises two parts or sections pivotally connected along adjacent vertical edges, usually through the medium of hinges, and provided with co-acting fasteners at the remaining vertical edges and with means to lock the parts together when they are moved relatively into closed position.

It is a difficult matter to gain access to the interior of trunks of this type, due to the fact that when placed on end, it is necessary to tip the trunk rearwardly or away from the person attempting to open the same in order to lift the front or movable cover part or section from the floor so as to permit it to be swung into open position. Unless the trunk is so tilted, the front or cover section of the trunk will move in rubbing contact against the floor, and when the floor is polished, cause the same to become scratched. When the trunk rests on a rug or carpet, opening of the hinged front or cover section will be found more difficult; in fact, tilting of the trunk will be found absolutely necessary so as to lift the bottom of the front or cover section from the rug or carpet.

Wardrobe trunks are now commonly used by the traveling public and others, and particularly by occupants of rooms in boarding or rooming houses; and in cases where a wardrobe trunk acts as a substitute for a clothes closet, my invention is of decided advantage.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide a support or holder for the trunk, and so position or hold the trunk that when opening the same, the hinged front or cover section of the trunk cannot come in contact with the floor.

Another object of my invention is to provide means for holding the trunk elevated, so that the floor can be kept clean underneath the trunk and so that the trunk may be opened without any resistance being offered thereagainst, such as created by rubbing contact with the floor or a rug or carpet on the floor.

A further object of my invention is to provide means in the form of a support or holder for supporting and holding the trunk to permit of readily gaining access to the interior thereof; and to provide as a part of the support or holder, an exposed clothes-supporting member on which hats, coats or other clothing, which are in daily use, may be hung.

A further object of my invention is to provide a support or holder which will positively hold the rear or body portion of the trunk in a position elevated from the floor and allow the front or cover portion of the trunk to be swung into open position without moving in contact with any part of the support or holder or any adjacent object.

A still further object of my invention is to provide means in connection with a support or holder of the kind mentioned, whereby the front or cover section of the trunk will be drawn into closed position or swung into full open position after said section, in its movement, reaches either one or the other side, respectively, of a certain plane.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the provision of a support for holding a wardrobe trunk in such a position that the front or cover portion thereof may be swung on its hinges without coming in contact with the floor.

The invention further consists in the novel features of construction and in the arrangement and combination of parts to be hereinafter described and more particularly pointed out in the subjoined claims.

In the drawings:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a wardrobe trunk applied to my improved support or holder, the top, one of the sides and the front of the trunk being shown.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view viewed from another angle and showing the top, the opposite side and the rear of the trunk.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged horizontal section through the support or holder taken on line 3—3, Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged vertical section through the support or holder taken on line 4—4, Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged horizontal section through the support or holder taken on line 5—5, Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is a horizontal section of the support or holder taken on line 6—6, Fig. 7.

Fig. 7 is a vertical section taken on line 7—7, Fig. 6, looking in the direction of the arrow crossing said line.

Fig. 8 is a rear view of a modified form of support or holder, showing a trunk supported thereby and clamped therein.

Reference being had to the drawings in detail, 10 designates a wardrobe trunk of the type having two parts or sections relatively movable. One of said parts or sections may be termed the rear section or body portion of the trunk, which I designate by the numeral 11; the other part, designated by the numeral 12, may be termed the front or cover section of the trunk. These two sections are pivotally connected together along

adjacent edges by means of hinges 13, or otherwise, and they are provided with retainer clasps 14 comprising two co-acting parts by means of which the opposite adjacent edges of the two sections of the trunk may be connected together. The sections of the trunk may also be locked in closed position by means of a locking hasp or member 15.

The trunk illustrated is therefore one of a common type adapted to be set on end upon the floor and the two parts or sections thereof are relatively movable so that access may be had to the interior.

In the embodiment of my invention illustrated, I provide a supporting frame 16, having two horizontal members 17, 18 arranged at a right angle to each other; the member 17 being preferably in a lower plane than the member 18, and being connected to said member 18 at adjacent ends by an upright or vertical connecting member 19. These horizontal members may be of any desired material, but in the form shown they are constructed of angle iron.

The horizontal frame member 17 may be described as being longitudinally-disposed while the horizontal frame member 18 is transversely-disposed.

The longitudinally-disposed frame member 17 has caster blocks 20 secured to opposite ends thereof, to which casters 21 are secured. These caster blocks and casters serve as separated supporting points or legs for the support or holder, and these are connected together by other parts of the support or holder so that the trunk in the holder is not, nor is a trunk adapted to be clamped in the holder, intended to serve as means for connecting said legs.

The upright or vertical connecting member 19 may also be constructed of any desired material, but I prefer to form the same of angle iron and provide it with a horizontal web or flange 22 at its lower end through which and the longitudinal frame member 17, rivets 23 or other fastening means are passed. This connecting upright is therefore secured to and supported by the longitudinal frame member 17.

One end of the transverse frame member 18 has one of its webs or flanges bent upon itself, as at 24, and rivets or other fastening elements 25 are passed through this bent portion and through one of the webs or flanges of the connecting upright. At the opposite end of said transverse frame member, a caster block 26 is fastened thereto, it being of a length so that its lower end will be horizontally alined with the lower ends of the blocks 20 secured to the longitudinal frame member 17, and it has a caster 27 secured to the lower end thereof.

28 designates a clamp support which forms part of the frame of the support or holder and comprises two flat members 29, 30; member 29 being horizontally-disposed while member 30 is vertically-disposed. One end of member 29 is riveted or otherwise secured to the connecting or corner upright 19, as at 31, and the other end thereof is riveted or otherwise secured to the upper end of member 30, as at 32; the lower end of member 30 being riveted or otherwise secured to the transverse frame member 18, as at 33. This clamp support also has two arms 34, 35 extending, respectively, upwardly and downwardly from the flat horizontal member 29, and these arms are provided with guide loops 36, 37, respectively, which are offset inwardly and forwardly, and also with respect to the flat member 29 from which said arms extend.

38 designates a clamp, which consists of a vertically-disposed clamp bar 39 guided for vertical movement in the guide loops 36, 37, and at its upper end having a forwardly-extending contact or clamp head 40 transversely elongated and provided at opposite ends with felt or other suitable pads 41 adapted for contact with the upper end of the rear section or body portion of the trunk; the trunk having the rear marginal portion of its bottom resting on the transverse frame member 18.

The clamp bar 38 has the upper end of an operating rod 42 pivotally connected thereto, as at 43, and its lower end is pivotally connected to a hand lever 44 pivotally secured to the downwardly-extending or depending arm 35 of the clamp support, as at 45. Said lever has a widened inner portion 46 provided with a stop ear 47 adapted to engage a stop lug 48 formed on said depending arm 35 when said lever is swung to the end of its movement in one direction. The pivotal connection of the rod 42 to the lever 44 is in spaced relation to the pivot 45 of said lever, and when swinging said lever on its pivot, said pivotal connection is moved through an arc of a circle. When swung to one side of a vertical plane passing through the pivot 45, as for example illustrated in Fig. 2, the pivotal connection of said rod 42 with the lever will be slightly to the left of the dead center, thus making it necessary to exert pressure on the handle of the lever 44 in a downward direction to cause said pivotal connection to be passed beyond the dead center; whereupon, additional further downward movement of said lever handle will move the clamp bar 39 upwardly and disengage the clamp head 40 from the top wall of the trunk. Upon swinging the lever handle upwardly and to the left, the clamp head will be caused to firmly engage the top of the trunk, and when said handle is swung beyond its dead center, will retain said clamp head in engaging or clamping position.

In addition to the vertically operating clamp bar 39, a horizontally operating clamp bar 49 is provided, which is guided for movement along the horizontal flat member 29 of the clamp support, said flat member having ears 50 bent over said clamp bar from opposite longitudinal edges of said member and serving as guides for the same. One end of this clamp bar is also provided with a forwardly-extending contact or clamp head 51, which is vertically elongated and provided at opposite ends with felt or other engaging pads 52 adapted to engage one side of the body portion of the trunk. This clamp bar has one end of an actuating rod 53 pivotally connected thereto, the other end of said rod being pivotally connected to a lever 54 which is pivotally secured to said flat member 29 and to the corner upright 19 by means of the rivet 31 serving to connect said flat member with said corner post. In this case the pivotal connection of the operating rod 53 to said lever 54 is also spaced from the pivot of said lever, so that upon swinging the handle of said lever in an arc of a circle, the clamp head of said clamp bar 49 will be moved away from the side of the body portion of the trunk, or against the same, depending on the direction in which the lever 54 is swung. When swinging the lever handle downwardly into the position shown in Fig. 2, it will engage a stop 55 extending rearwardly from the connecting or corner upright 19, and the pivotal connection of the operating rod will have, at

such times, moved beyond the dead center of said lever. Under such conditions, the clamp head 51 is drawn against the side of the trunk and the trunk against the connecting or corner upright.

When the levers 44 and 54 are in the positions shown in Fig. 2, the clamp head 40 is forced against the top of the body portion of the trunk and the clamp head 51 against that side at which the trunk is to be opened. When swinging the levers 44 and 54 into releasing positions, the trunk can be readily removed from the support or holder.

When the levers are in the position shown in Fig. 2, the body portion of the trunk is clamped in the support or holder and the pivotal connections of the operating rods 42 and 53 with their respective actuating levers will be beyond the dead centers of said levers, making it necessary to manually operate said levers in order to loosen the trunk. This prevents accidental disengagement of the clamp members from the trunk, and assures a secure fastening of the trunk within the support or holder.

At the front end of the longitudinal frame member 17, I provide a post 56 which may be removably or otherwise fastened to said frame member, and it may have a number of supporting hooks or arms 57 at its upper end, on which clothing in daily use may be hung. This post is spaced a sufficient distance from the front of the trunk when closed to permit the front or cover section of the trunk to be swung into open position without coming in contact with said post.

Extending forwardly from the transverse base member 18 is an arm 58, to the front end of which is pivotally secured one end of a link 59 having its other end pivotally secured to the rear end of an arm 60, which extends forwardly therefrom and has an angular engaging head or member 61 pivotally secured to its front end.

A retractile spring 62 is secured at one end to a suitable point of said transverse frame member, and at its other end to the pivot connecting the link 59 with the arm 60.

The angular engaging member 61 has its inner side covered with felt or other suitable material 63, one portion of said angular engaging member lying in contact with the bottom of the front or cover section of the trunk and the other part against the front wall thereof. The spring 62 tends to draw the engaging member 61 in firm contact with the front wall of said front or cover section and hold the same in closed position, even though not latched or locked.

The link 59, the arm 60, the felted or padded angular engaging member 61 and the spring constitute a cover retaining device, and in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 6, hold the cover of the trunk, hereinbefore referred to as the front or cover section, in closed position.

The pivotal connection of the cover to the body portion of the trunk, is disposed at that side of the support or holder adjacent the connecting or corner upright 19 and the post 56, or costumer as it may be termed. The cover therefore swings from right to left when being opened, or from the position shown in lightly dotted lines in Fig. 6 to that shown in heavy dotted lines in said figure.

During the act of opening this cover, the several parts of the cover retaining device move from the position shown in full lines in Fig. 6 to those shown in dotted lines, and when the point of pivotal connection of the arm 60 with the link 59 is in longitudinal alinement with the pivotal connection of the link 59 with the arm 58 and that end of the spring secured to the transverse frame member 18, the cover may be said to be on a dead center, in which position it may be maintained if not accidentally forced to the right or left. Slight swinging movement of the cover to the left will cause the spring to act to fully open the cover of the trunk, fully open meaning for the purpose of this invention, the position in which the cover is shown with heavy dotted lines in Fig. 6, in which position the cover is disposed at a right angle to the body portion of the trunk. Slight movement of the cover to the right of the dead center will cause the spring to close the cover of the trunk. However, it is preferred that the cover be moved to the left of the dead center, as shown by heavy dotted lines in Fig. 6 of the drawings, and be there retained by any suitable means; for example, the link 59 may, at that end pivotally connected to arm 58, have an upstanding stop lug 59a which will move in contact with, or travel freely around the end of the arm 58 when swinging the cover into open position, and as the fully open position is reached by the cover, this lug will engage the side of the arm 58 and be stopped thereby, thus preventing further swinging movement of the link 59 and arm 60, and consequently the cover itself. In the drawings I have illustrated the cover swung slightly beyond what I have termed the dead center of the cover, established by the alinement of the arm 60, link 59, and point of connection of the spring 62 to the transverse frame member 18. It will be apparent that any other suitable stop device may be employed for this purpose.

As the trunk is elevated from the floor by reason of its being supported on the transverse frame member 18 of the support or holder, which may be considered the trunk supporting member, and fastened thereto by the clamping mechanism described, the major portion of the trunk is in overhanging position and is elevated a distance above the floor so that access may be had to the floor underneath the trunk in order to keep surroundings clean.

In the construction described I have shown individual actuating elements for the individual clamp heads, but in the modification shown in Fig. 8, the operating rods 42 and 53 are both pivotally connected to a single actuating lever 64. The pivotal connection of said operating rods to said actuating lever being such that both clamp heads are moved into engaging position with the trunk at the same time, and also moved away from the trunk; the manner of constructing the clamp support, designated in this figure by the numeral 65, being somewhat different than in the preferred construction shown in Figs. 1 to 7; also the manner of guiding the clamp bars 39 and 49, which are made somewhat shorter in the modification than in the preferred construction.

While I have illustrated what I now consider two practicable arrangements for supporting or holding the trunk in elevated position in order to readily open the same, it will be apparent from the scope of the appended claims that many changes in the construction of the frame and the clamping means, as well as other parts of the apparatus, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a cover section hinged to said body

portion to swing in a horizontal plane, comprising a supporting frame on which said body portion rests, means to secure said body portion to said supporting frame, and retaining means connected to said supporting frame and engaging said cover section to hold the same fully open when so positioned.

2. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a cover section hinged to said body portion to swing in a horizontal plane, comprising a supporting frame on which said body portion rests, means to secure said body portion to said supporting frame, and retaining means connected to said supporting frame and serving to hold said cover section closed when so positioned.

3. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a cover section hinged to said body portion to swing in a horizontal plane, comprising a supporting frame on which said body portion rests, means to secure said body portion to said supporting frame, and retaining means connected to said supporting frame and serving to move said cover section into its fully opened position after it is opened to a certain point in its opening movement and to so retain said cover section.

4. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a cover section hinged to said body portion to swing in a horizontal plane, comprising a supporting frame on which said body portion rests, means to secure said body portion to said supporting frame, and retaining means connected to said supporting frame and engaging said cover section to move the same into fully closed position when opened within a certain range of its opening movement.

5. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a cover section hinged to said body portion to swing in a horizontal plane, comprising a supporting frame on which said body portion rests, means to secure said body portion to said supporting frame, and retaining means secured to said supporting frame, and engaging said cover section, said retaining means providing a dead center in the range of movement of said cover section and moving the same into either fully opened or fully closed position and so retaining the same, depending upon the position of said cover to one or the other side of said dead center.

6. A holder for trunks, comprising a frame having a horizontal trunk-supporting member and a vertical member extending upwardly beyond said trunk-supporting member, said trunk-supporting member supporting the body portion of a wardrobe trunk and said vertical member having one of the sides of said body portion bearing thereagainst, and means to clamp the body portion of the trunk to said horizontal supporting member and to said vertical member, the cover member of the trunk being free to move without coming in contact with the floor or parts of said frame.

7. A holder for trunks having a frame provided with two horizontal frame members disposed in different horizontal planes and at right angles to each other, a vertical frame member connecting adjacent ends of said horizontal frame members, the elevated horizontal frame member being adapted to have the rear portion of a wardrobe trunk seated thereon, clamping means exerting pressure against the top of said trunk to hold the same against said last-mentioned horizontal frame member, and clamping means engaging one side of the trunk to hold the other side thereof against said vertical frame member.

8. A holder for trunks having a frame adapted to rest on a floor and being provided with two horizontal frame members disposed in different horizontal planes and at right angles to each other and a vertical frame member connecting adjacent ends of said horizontal frame members, the elevated horizontal frame member being adapted to have the rear portion of a wardrobe trunk seated thereon with the hinged cover portion thereof out of contact with said frame and the floor, clamping means exerting pressure against the top of said trunk to hold the same against said last-mentioned horizontal frame member, and retaining means secured to said last-mentioned horizontal frame member having an engaging member in contact with the cover section of the trunk at the lower end thereof, said retaining means including a spring expansible under the opening movement of said cover and serving to draw said cover into full opened or fully closed position, depending upon the position of said cover at one or the other side of a definite point in the opening or closing movement of said cover.

9. A holder for trunks having a frame provided with two horizontal frame members disposed at right angles to each other and a vertical frame member connecting adjacent ends of said horizontal frame member, a clamp support secured to said frame and provided with guide elements, clamp bars disposed at right angles to each other guided for movement in said guide elements and having trunk-engaging means to engage two different walls of the trunk, and means for actuating said clamp bars to bring said trunk-engaging means in contact with the trunk, or to release said means therefrom.

10. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a horizontally-swinging cover connected to said body portion, comprising a frame, means on said frame for securing the trunk thereto, and retaining means on said frame in engagement with said cover to retain the same in either open or closed position when so positioned, said retaining means allowing opening or closing movement of said cover without disconnection from the frame and cover.

11. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a horizontally-swinging cover connected to said body portion, comprising a frame, means on said frame for securing a trunk thereto, and retaining means secured to said frame and comprising an element engaging the cover of said frame, means for pivotally supporting said element and allowing the latter to swing in an arc of a circle with said cover, and a spring tending to swing said cover into fully opened or fully closed position, depending on whether said cover is to one or the other side of a vertical plane determining the dead center under action of said spring.

12. A holder for wardrobe trunks having a body portion and a cover hinged thereto adapted for horizontal movement in an arc of a circle, comprising a frame, means exerting pressure against the trunk in two directions so as to firmly secure the trunk to said holder, said trunk having its body portion resting upon said frame and said cover in a free overhanging position to enable it to be opened or closed without coming in contact with the floor on which said frame rests.

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