United States Patent

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[54] **STORAGE DEVICES**
7 Claims, 3 Drawing Figs.

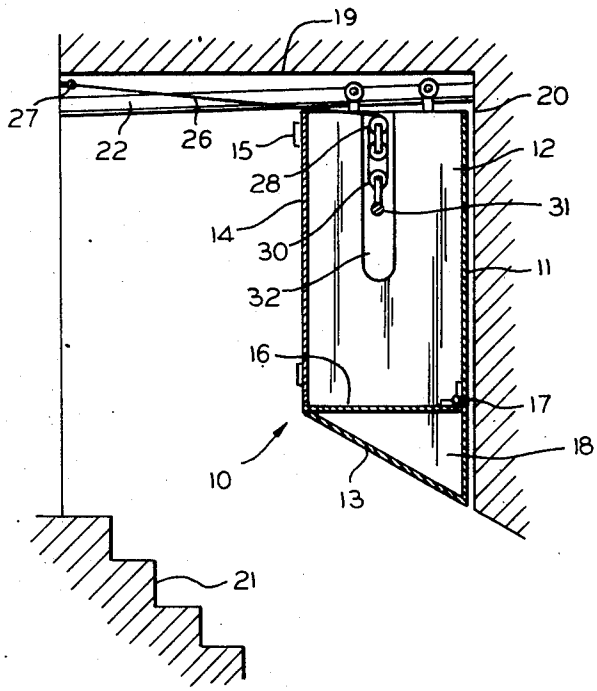
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **312/246,** 312/306
[51] **Int. Cl.** **H01r 39/40**
[50] **Field of Search** 312/246, 247, 306, 321; 248/323, 332

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ABSTRACT: A transportable closet rolls on rails mounted near the ceiling line of a closet. A cable, block, and tackle arrangement is included in the closet to raise and lower the cargo of clothes therein as the closet is moved into and out of dead storage. Thus, the weight of the clothes counterbalances the weight of the closet and makes it easy to roll the closet.



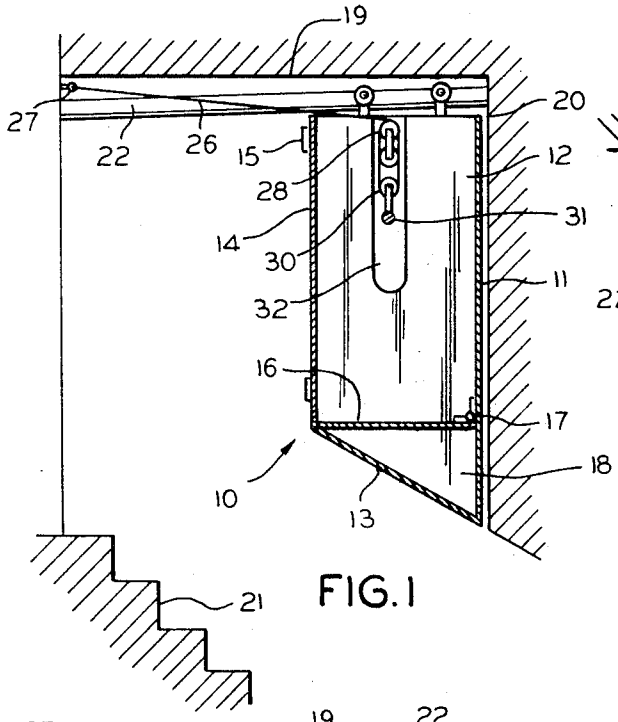


FIG. 1

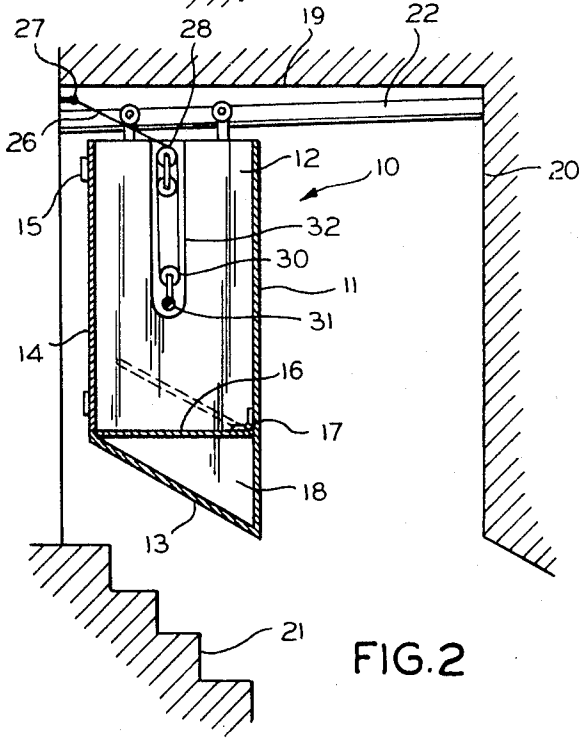


FIG. 2

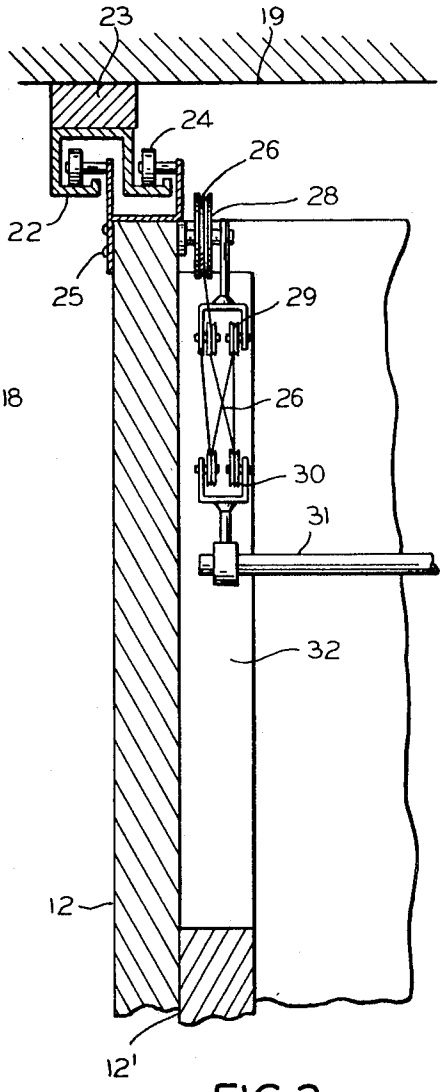


FIG. 3

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STORAGE DEVICES

My invention relates to storage devices, and more particularly to a clothes storage device for suspension in a stair well.

Stair wells contain and support inclined stairs which run diagonally across the width of a house. If two stairs are positioned above or below each other, each runs parallel the other, and there is no waste space. However, if a staircase runs downwardly, only, there is a wasted space above the foot of the stair where the stair well extends upwardly for the height of two floors. The wasted space provides an ideal location for storage of material which is not in current use, such as out of season clothes. The wasted space is not in any used area, and yet the door to the stair way is usually in a very convenient location. Thus, this is an ideal storage location.

An object of the invention is to provide a storage device for occupying a remote storage space, especially in a stair well, without in any manner interfering with the existing stair space.

Another object of my invention is to provide a storage device which may be suspended near the ceiling of a hallway, or the like over and above a stairway.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a device which may be moved into a position for use, and out of the way when not in use.

Other and further objects of my invention will become more apparent as the description proceeds, when taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic vertical cross-sectional view of the device constituting my invention, moved to an out of the way position suspended over the foot of a stairway;

FIG. 2 is a similar view of the device shown in FIG. 1, moved forward to provide access to the contents disposed therein; and

FIG. 3 is a schematic fragmentary cross-sectional view of one side of the storage unit showing its support and a cargo elevating structure therein.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts and features throughout the several views. More particularly, the reference character **10** identifies a storage enclosure such as a rolling closet, for example. The closet consists of a rear wall **11**, two sidewalls **12**, and an angularly disposed lower plate **13**. The front of the enclosure **10** may be equipped with a swinging door **14** which is hingedly supported as shown at **15**. A horizontally disposed bottom or floor plate **16** is hingedly supported at **17** to the rear wall **11**. The floor plate **16** may be raised to give access to an enclosure shown as **18**, for storing shoes, or the like.

FIG. **1** and **2** show the ceiling of the building structure as **19**, the rear wall of the stair well at **20**, and the stairway schematically at **21**. A dual track rail **22** (FIG. **3**) may be supported from either the wall or the ceiling **19**, as shown at **23**. These dual rails provide a relative great stability so that normally no other support is required. If it is, a horizontal wheel may be positioned on the bottom of the closet to run along the wall. The enclosure **10** is entirely supported at its top by rollers **24**. These rollers may be attached to the sidewalls **12** of the closet at **25**. The roller and rail combination enables a movement of

the enclosure **10** to either of the positions shown in FIG. **1** and **2**. The rail **22** may be inclined slightly to enable the enclosure **10** to be maneuvered into position in either the out of the way rearward location or the forward loading position, where the contents of the enclosure is to be removed or replaced.

A cord **26** is attached to the front wall at **27** of the building structure and strung along the rail **22**. This cord **26** extends inwardly through the stair well to a pulley **28** attached to the sidewall **12** of the closet. This pulley **28** supports the upper portion **29** of a conventional block and tackle arrangement. A lower portion **30** of the block and tackle supports a hanger rod **31**, on which clothes or other objects (not shown) are supported within the enclosure **10**. This block and tackle arrangement is here shown as being disposed within an elongated vertical opening **32** in an inner portion **12'**, which is an integral part of the sidewall **12** of the enclosure **10**.

When the enclosure **10** is at the back of the stair well, the cord **26** is drawn out and the hanger **31** is lifted to an upper position. As the enclosure **10** is moved forward to a position as shown in FIG. **2**, the hanger rod **31** supported by the cord **26** moves downwardly as shown in FIG. **2**. Thus, the lowered clothes are easily accessible when supported on hangers (not shown), on the rod **31**. An important advantage of this invention is that the clothes may be used to counter balance the weight of the moving closet. This improves and facilitates movement of the portable closet.

From the above description, it should be apparent that the device is easy to manipulate and requires no special mechanical skill. Although I have shown a specific construction of the parts and features of the closet, many changes may be made without effecting the operativeness of the device. Therefore, the claims are to be construed to cover all equivalents falling within the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A movable closet comprising a rail having a container suspended therefrom, means in said closet for suspending goods therefrom, and block and tackle means including a cord for raising and lowering said suspending means, said cord being strung along said rail to raise said block and tackle when said closet is moved to one end of the rail and lower the block and tackle when said closet is moved to the other end of the rail.

2. The closet of claim **1** wherein said rail has two tracks, and said suspending means counterbalances the weight of the closet.

3. The closet of claim **1** wherein said rail runs near the ceiling line of a dead space at the top of a stair well.

4. The closet of claim **3** wherein the bottom of said closet is slanted to parallel the stairs in said well.

5. The closet of claim **3** wherein said rail is inclined to provide a stable position for said closet at one end of its travel.

6. The close of claim **1** wherein one sidewall of said closet includes a slot for receiving said block and tackle.

7. The closet of claim **1** and means comprising a hinged bottom in said closet for providing storage space beneath said suspended means.

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