Nov. 25, 1941. A. GERSHEL 2,264,131

PACKING CASE

Filed April 5, 1939 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

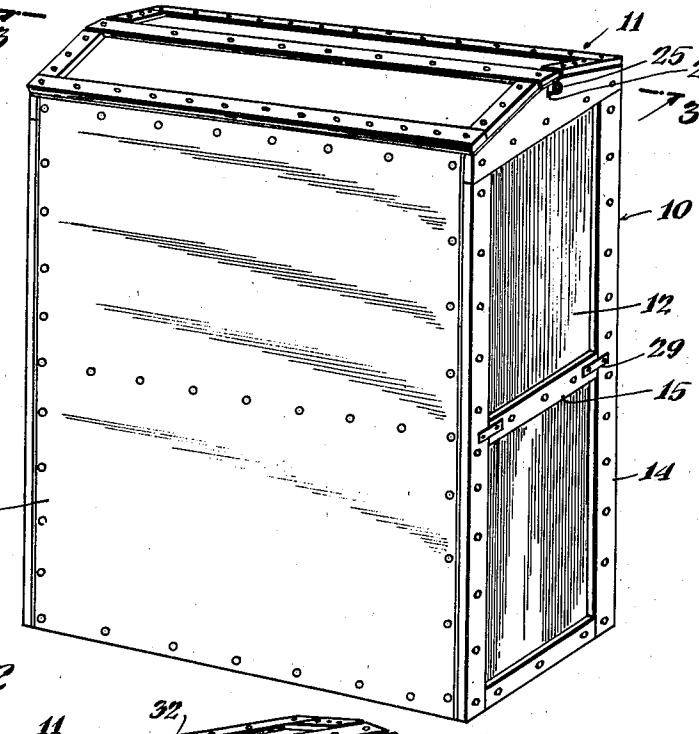


Fig. 2

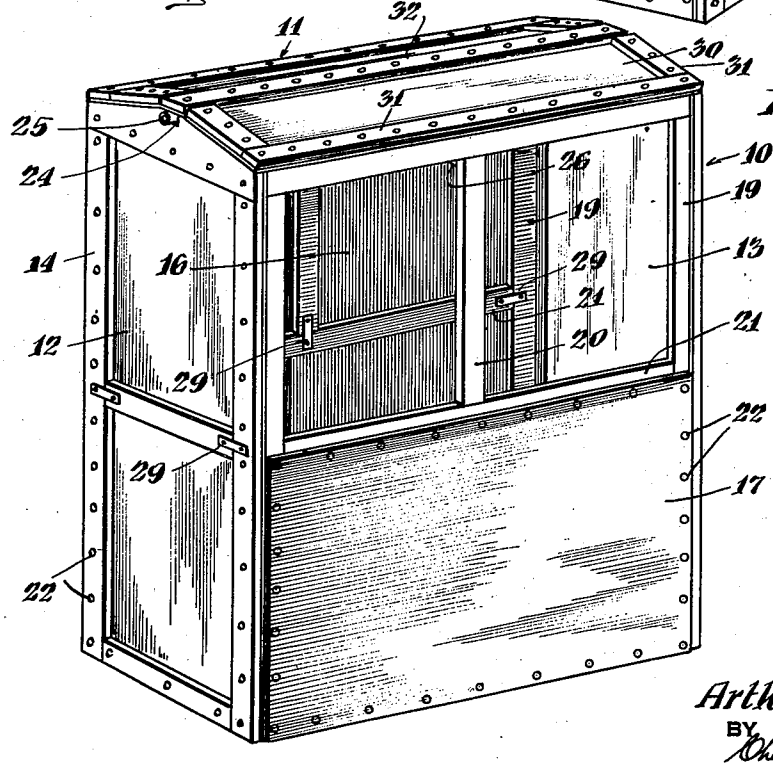


Fig. 2

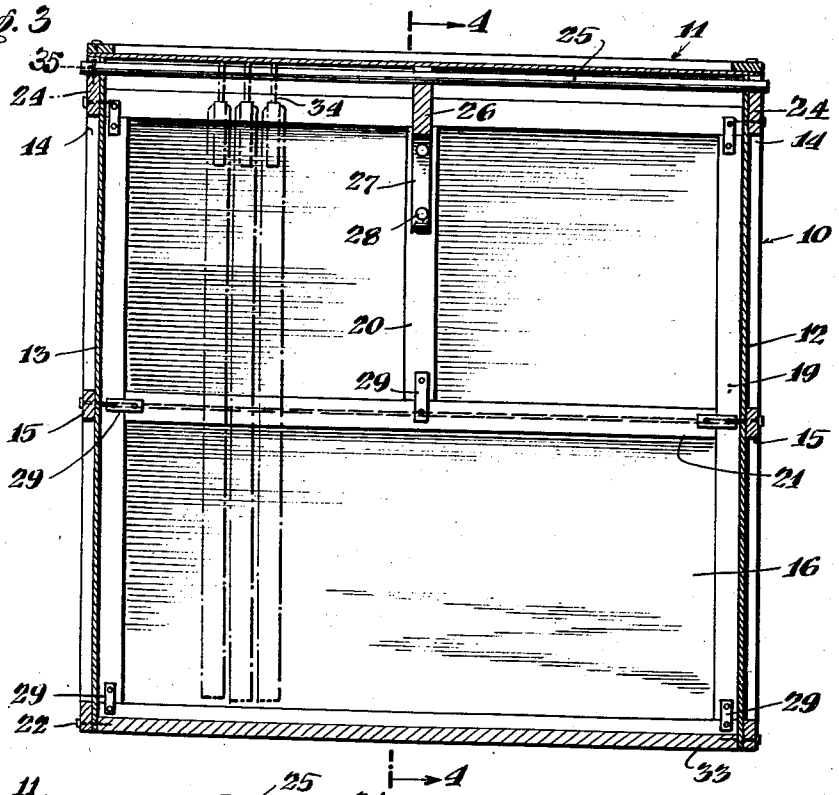
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Fig. 3



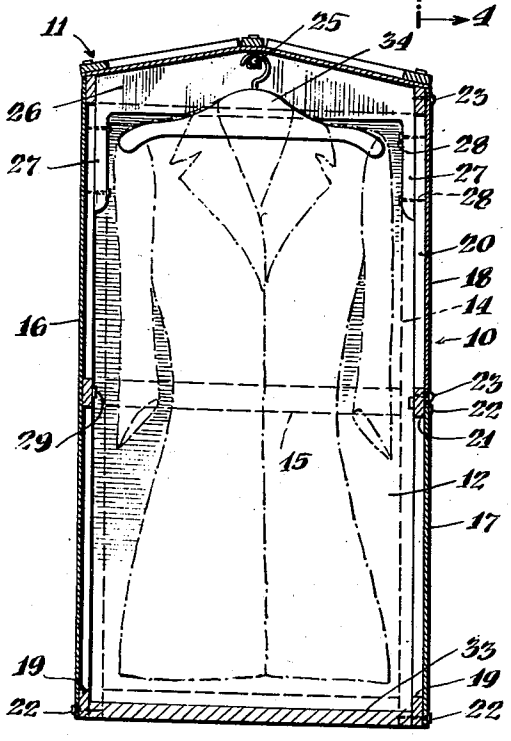


Fig. 4

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PACKING CASE

Arthur Gershel, Baldwin, N. Y.

Application April 5, 1939, Serial No. 266,071

3 Claims. (Cl. 206—7)

This invention relates to improvements in a packing case, and more particularly to a packing case for ladies dresses shipped in international commerce.

Merchandise shipped abroad in packing cases must be packed in substantially constructed boxes to withstand damage from rough and even abusive handling and from freight and cargo movements while in transit, particularly due to heavy seas. Packing cases of this description when properly constructed are difficult to open for customs inspection, and when once opened are still more difficult to close up again without injury to the merchandise packed therein. Losses from damages occurring in the shipment of ready made garments such as ladies dresses have been particularly high, due to tearing the dresses in opening the packing cases, driving nails through the fabrics in re-closing the packing cases after customs inspection, and the wrinkled appearance of the garments when received, which appearance necessitates the re-conditioning of those dresses which were not damaged beyond repair. Claims from such losses tend to increase insurance rates, thus increasing costs to a point where domestic ready made dresses cannot be profitably exported, thereby impairing our foreign trade in this particular field. Again when a re-count of the packed dresses before shipment becomes necessary to discover the source of an error, the packing cases are frequently so damaged, in opening them for the re-count that they must be discarded and the entire shipment re-packed in new packing cases. As there are 250 to 300 dresses in each packing case, and a shipment may consist of from ten to forty cases consisting of 2500 to 10,000 dresses, such mistakes are costly to the forwarding agent under whose supervision and control this work is done, and in some cases such mistakes have completely absorbed the agent's brokerage.

One object of this invention is a packing case for ladies garments which is able to withstand rough handling and resist damage in transit, but which can be opened and closed as often as necessary for customs and other inspection, easily, quickly, and without damage either to the packing case or to the garments packed therein.

Another object is a packing case in which ladies dresses can be readily packed, counted, transported, and inspected, as often as necessary, and from which the dresses may be quickly unpacked at their destination without injury to the dresses or need for re-conditioning them.

Another object is a packing case from which ladies dresses can be removed at their overseas destination in such physical condition and appearance as to be ready for immediate sale.

Other objects will appear from the detailed description which follows.

In the drawings comprising two sheets of four figures numbered Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, one embodiment of the invention is shown.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a packing case in closed condition ready for shipment.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the packing case of Fig. 1 with the side panel removed to permit inspection of garments (not shown) intended to be packed therein.

Fig. 3 is a vertical cross section taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows; and

Fig. 4 is a vertical cross section taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings the packing case indicated generally at 10 is preferably made of laminated wooden panels secured to reinforcing frames made from heavier lumber.

The base member 33, upon which the packing case is designed to rest is made of relatively thick tough lumber. The front and back end panels 12 and 13 are secured to the bracing frames 14 in any suitable manner as by means of nails 22, said frames being further reinforced by the cross braces 15 (Figs. 1 and 3).

Packing case 10 is also provided with a full side panel 16 which is secured to a bracing frame 19 in any suitable manner as by the nails 22. A sectional side panel 17 (Fig. 2) is attached to the lower half of the complementary bracing frame 19 in any suitable manner as by means of nails 22, but the upper half of the said frame forms an inspection opening. Said opening is cross braced at 20, and a removable side panel 18 (Fig. 4) is designed to cover said inspection opening, and is detachably secured to frame 19, cross brace 20, and sill brace 21, by means of a series of wood screws 23 which pass through the peripheral marginal edges of removable side panel 18 at spaced intervals and penetrate frame 19, cross brace 20, and sill brace 21, to a sufficient depth to rigidly secure removable side panel 18 in position.

Base member 33 and the frames 19 for supporting the side panels 16 and 17—18, are rectangular. Frames 14 for supporting end panels

12 and 13 are rectangular to the same height as the frames 19, corresponding substantially to the length of a lady's dress, and are then bevelled to form triangular or gabled end supports 24, conforming substantially to the contour of the neck and shoulders of a lady's dress hanger 34 (Fig. 4). An intermediate support 26 (Figs. 3 and 4) provided with extension ribs 27 is secured to the brace 20 and to the top sides of frames 19 in any preferred manner as by the nails 28. The supports 24 and 26 are notched to receive and support a section of pipe forming a hanger bar 25. Bar 25 is anchored but at one point only, by means of a screw or nail 35, which passes through a hole in the bar and into one of the supports 24. Bar 25 is anchored at one end only, so that if the front and back end panels 12 and 13 are either outwardly bowed or inwardly telescoped by the pressure of other freight, the bar 25 will be free to slide through the other notched supports 24 and 26 without injuring the packing case 10. If the bar 25 were rigidly anchored to both supports 24 either excessive telescopic action or excessive bowing caused by the excessive pressure of other freight would fracture the panels 12 and 13 of the packing case 10; by leaving one end of the hanger bar 25 free to slide in its notched supports 24 this risk of fracture is avoided. The free end of bar 25 projects beyond the notched support 24 to provide a margin of safety sufficient to compensate for any reasonable increase in length of the packing case from the outward bowing action previously described. A middle brace 32 parallelling the hanger bar 25 in spaced relation tends to protect the hanger bar and to retain the swivelled hooks of the hangers 34 in place so as to prevent the hook hangers from being jolted off hanger bar 25. The clearance above hanger bar 25 is only about ¼ of an inch, or sufficient to allow the hangers to be hooked around the bar, but not enough to allow the hangers 34 to be jolted off bar 25 when the merchandise is in transit.

The top end 11, may consist of a one piece top panel 30 secured to the top braces 31, 32, in any preferred manner, as by nails or the like. The frames 14, 19, etc., may be further reinforced at various points by the metal straps 29.

One very satisfactory form of packing case embodying my invention may be fabricated from plywood panels reinforced with frames of heavier lumber, employing substantially the following dimensions: height of case from base 33 to apex 32, 51¼ inches; length from front (12) to rear (13) end panel 35 inches; window opening 33 inches by 24 inches; clearance between hanger bar 25 and top panel 30, ¼ inch. By placing the bracing frames 19 of side panels 16, 17 inside the packing case, a substantial gain in available packing space is obtained, which space would be lost if the bracing frames 19 were placed on the outside of the packing case 20, although the said space would be charged for by the ship owner on the basis of cubicle measurements.

In packing, the front end panel 12 and top end or roof panel 30 are left open, and with case 10 resting on its base 33, the pressed dresses suspended on individual swivelled hook hangers 34 are hooked upon hanger bar 25, beginning at the back end panel 13. After the case 10 has been half filled, it is turned over on end panel 13 as a base to press the dresses already packed closer together. More dresses hanging on individual hangers 34 are packed in case 10, the hangers 34 being hooked upon hanger bar 25 until case 10 is full. Front end panel 12 is now nailed in place, case 10 is now returned to its base 33 and top end or roof panel 30 is attached in place, and the mechandise is ready for shipment. To inspect as at the custom house, the wood screws 23 of removal side panel 18 are unfastened, panel 18 is removed, the dresses are examined through the window opening, and after the examination is completed side panel 18 is replaced, and the shipment is ready to be routed to its destination.

What is claimed is:

1. A packing case comprising a base member, side frames, gabled end frames, and a top frame, said side frames being permanently secured in spaced relation to the opposite side edges of said base member, a sill brace extending horizontally substantially midway between the top and bottom members of one of the side frames, a laminated panel covering the lower half of said side frame, said panel being permanently secured to the bottom and side members of said frame and to the lower marginal vertical side edge of said sill brace, the upper half of said side frame being open to form an inspection opening, a laminated panel secured to and forming a cover for the other side frame, laminated panels secured to each of said gabled end frames, said panelled gabled end frames being permanently secured to the front and rear edges of said base member, said gabled end frames being notched at the peak, a hanger bar supported in said notches and anchored to one of said end frames, the opposite end of said hanger bar being free to slide in its supporting notch, a laminated covering for said top frame, said covered top frame being permanently secured to said side and end frames to substantially complete the packing case, a closure for said inspection opening, and means operable to quickly fasten said closure in and to unfasten said closure for removal from said inspection opening without injury to the closure, to the packing case or to the merchandise contained therein.

2. A packing case for ladies dresses comprising a base, side walls, gabled end walls, and a top wall, one of said side walls being substantially shorter than the other, said side walls being permanently secured to the base member in spaced relation to each other, the gabled end walls being permanently secured to the base members and to the side walls, the top wall being permanently secured to the gabled edges of the end walls and to the top edge of the taller side wall, said base, side walls, gabled end walls and top wall in conjunction, defining a packing case having a window opening in one side thereof extending from the top edge of the shorter side wall to the eave of the top wall defining an inspection opening to facilitate quick inspection of the contents of the packing case, a hanger bar supported between the peak points of the gabled ends, one end only of said hanger bar being anchored, the other end of said hanger bar being free, said hanger bar being spaced relatively close to the top wall to prevent the conventional dress hangers from being jarred loose from the hanger bar when the packing case is in transit, the spacing between said hanger bar and said top wall affording sufficient clearance to permit a conventional dress hanger to be manually unhooked from said hanger bar through said inspection

opening, a closure for said inspection opening, and means operable to quickly fasten said closure in, and to unfasten said closure for rapid removal from, said inspection opening, without injury to the closure, to any other portion of the packing case, or to the dresses therein contained.

3. A packing case for ladies dresses comprising a base, side walls, gabled end walls, and a top wall, one of said side walls being substantially shorter than the other, said side walls being permanently secured to the base member in spaced relation to each other, the gabled end walls being permanently secured to the base member and to the side walls, the top wall being permanently secured to the gabled edges of the end walls and to the top edge of the taller side wall, said base, side walls, gabled end walls and top wall in conjunction, defining a packing case having a window opening in one side thereof extending from the top edge of the shorter side wall to the eave of the top wall defining an inspection opening to facilitate quick inspection of the contents of the packing case, said gabled end walls being notched at their respective peaks, a hanger bar supported in said notched peak points of the gabled ends, said hanger bar being anchored to but one of said notched peaks and projecting laterally beyond the outer face of the other gabled end wall to permit the said wall to move along the hanger bar when the packing case is in transit without fracturing the walls of the packing case or disturbing the contents thereof, a closure for said inspection opening, and means operable to quickly fasten said closure in, and to unfasten said closure for rapid removal from, said inspection opening, without injury to the closure, to any other portion of the packing case, or to the dresses therein contained.

ARTHUR GERSHEL.