June 17, 1941. J. H. PLOTKIN 2,245,999

FOLDING PARTITION FOR LUGGAGE

Filed June 10, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

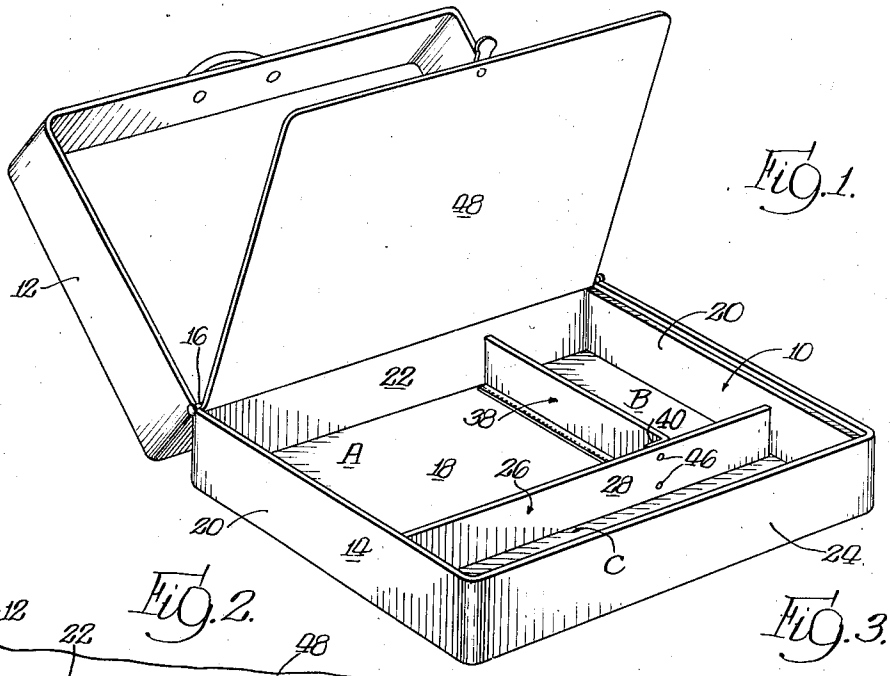


Fig. 1.

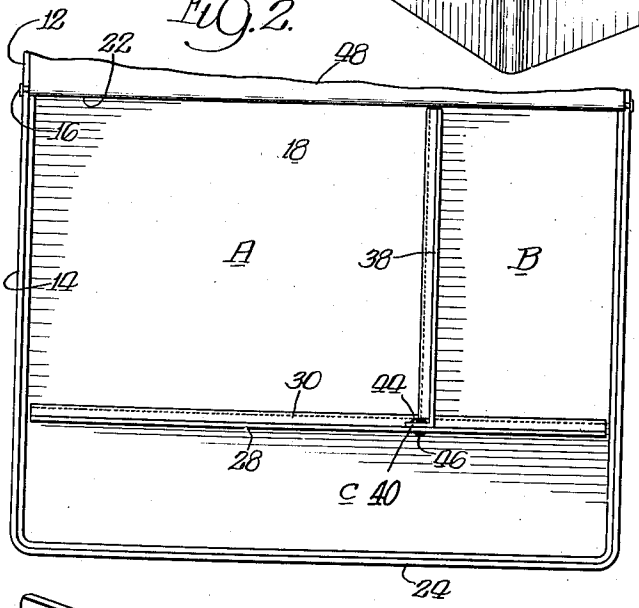


Fig. 2.

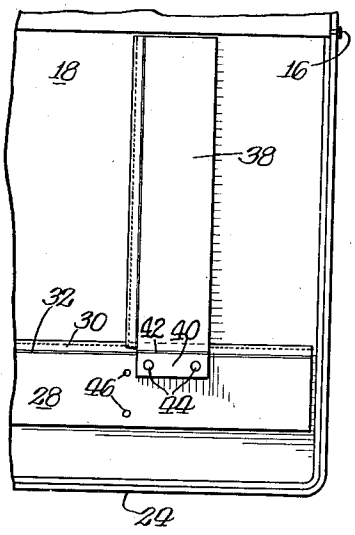


Fig. 3.

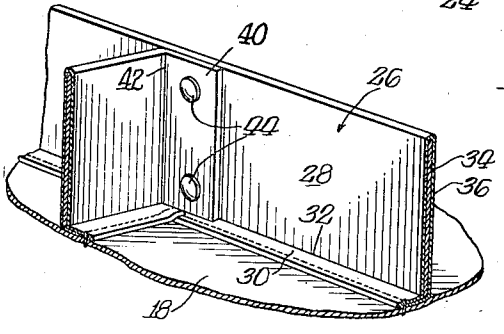


Fig. 4.

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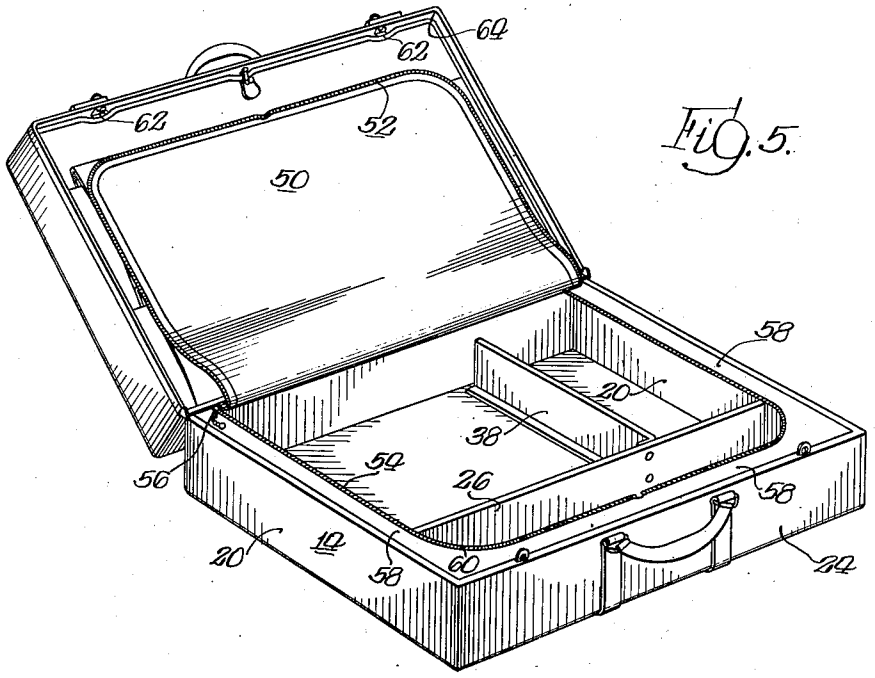


Fig. 5.

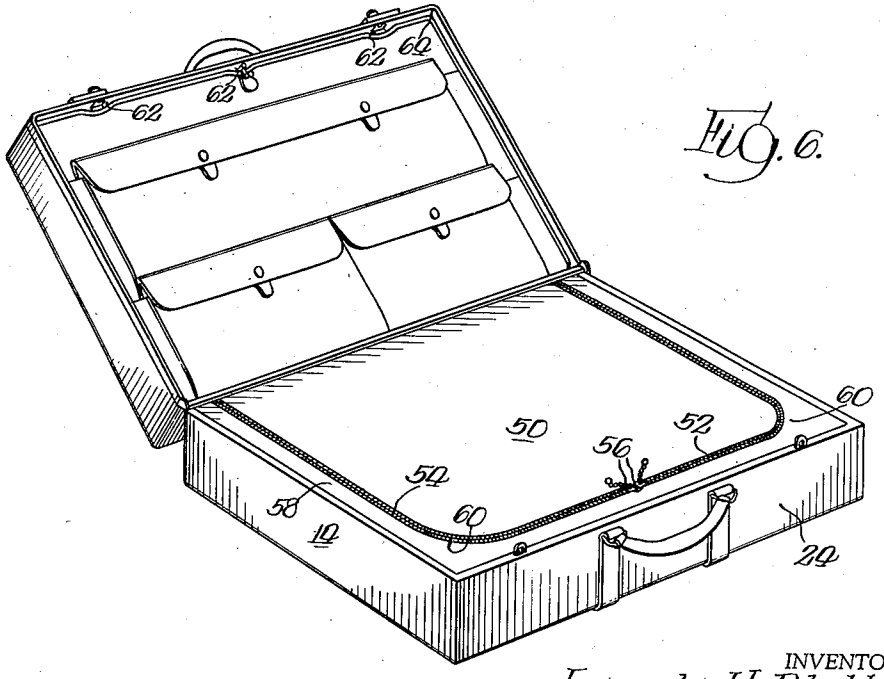


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,245,999

FOLDING PARTITION FOR LUGGAGE

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Application June 10, 1940, Serial No. 339,756

2 Claims. (Cl. 190—51)

My invention relates to a form of construction for use in luggage cases, such as Gladstone bags, wardrobe cases and the like, in which it is desirable to provide compartments for convenient separation of various articles or effects packed in the case.

An object of my invention is to provide a construction whereby a section of the luggage case may be divided by partitions into separate compartments.

A further object of my invention is to arrange the partitions in such a manner that they may be folded out of the way when not desired, so that the entire case section may be made available, uninterrupted by the partitions, for packing large flat articles.

Another object of my invention is to arrange a plurality of folding partition members in such relation that they are mutually self supporting when in upright position.

Still another object is to provide compartments formed by foldable partition members, in conjunction with a dust curtain panel which closes all the compartments and retains articles and effects therein.

Another object is to provide a dust curtain, for closure of the compartments as above described, which can be readily fastened by means of the well-known slide fastener, and which will present a smooth, neat surface, and will prevent access of dust or dirt into the partitioned compartments.

With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in the arrangement and combination of the various elements of my construction whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a luggage case in open position, showing the construction which I have invented;

Figure 2 is a plan view of a portion of one of the case sections, showing the partitions in upright position;

Figure 3 is a plan view of a portion of one of the case sections, similar to Figure 2, but showing the partitions in flat position;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of the intersection of two partition members;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a luggage case, showing my dust curtain construction, with the curtain in open position; and

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 5, but showing the curtain in closed position.

On the drawings I have used the reference numeral 10 to indicate generally a luggage case, which in a common form consists of two complementary or matching sections 12 and 14 connected by a hinge at 16. Speaking of the parts in the position they assume when the case 10 is closed and in its upright position, the section 14 consists of a side wall 18, end walls 20, a bottom wall 22 and a top wall 24.

I provide a partition 26 consisting of a stiff wall portion 28 and a base portion 30, the portions 28 and 30 being connected by a flexible or hinged joint 32. As one specific form of construction which may be used, I have shown a core panel 34, which may be cardboard, fiber board, plywood, or any suitably stiff material. The core panel is enclosed in a cover 36 of any suitably thin, strong and flexible material, which is extended beyond the core panel to form the base portion 30 and the flexible joint 32. My invention is not limited, however, to any particular form of construction of the partition, or of the joint.

The base portion 30 is connected to the wall 18 by any suitable means, as by stitching, riveting, or by an adhesive. The hinged joint 32, therefore, permits the wall portion 28 to stand in upright position, as in Figures 1, 2 and 4, or to be folded flat against the wall 18 of the case section 14, as in Figure 3.

A second partition 38 is also provided, and consists of a wall portion 28, base portion 30 and hinged joint 32, as in the partition 26 previously described. The partitions 26 and 38 are preferably mounted on the wall 18 at considerable angles to each other, and in the drawings I have shown them arranged in perpendicular relation to each other.

A flap 40 is connected by a hinged joint 42 to the end of the partition 38 adjacent the partition 26. The flap 40 is provided with snap fastener elements 44, which may be of the well-known ball and socket type, the complementary portions 46 being mounted on the partition 26.

It will be apparent that when the partitions are raised to upright position, and the snap fastener elements 44 and 46 are engaged, the partitions mutually support each other in position, by reason of their perpendicular arrangement and their connection through the snap fasteners.

The partition 26 extends between the end walls 20, and the partition 38 extends from partition 26 to the bottom wall 22, thus forming three compartments, identified in the drawings as A, B and C. The relative sizes of these compartments

can be predetermined by the location of the partitions on the wall 18, and additional compartments may be formed by providing more partitions of the same character.

In the exemplification shown, the compartment A is adapted, for example, to receive men's shirts, compartment B to contain a shaving kit, and compartment C to contain a pair of shoes. My invention is applicable to the construction of luggage cases with any desired number of compartments, in any convenient size and space relation.

A dust curtain panel 48, hingedly mounted at the edge of the bottom wall 22, can be moved into place as a cover for compartments A, B and C, and when this is done, the articles in each compartment are effectually retained therein, so that the contents of the luggage case are kept in good order, eliminating disarray or intermingling of the articles contained therein.

When it is desired to pack some article which requires more space than the compartments allow, then it is only necessary to disconnect the snap fastener elements 44 and 46, and fold the wall portions 28 of the partitions 26 and 38 down flat against the wall 18 of the case section 14, as in Figure 3. Because the wall portions are relatively thin, they occupy very little space, and constitute no obstruction to the space within the case section 14. It is therefore possible to pack a suit or similar large article in this space.

At all times, however, the partitions are instantly available, and the compartments can be reestablished quickly and easily, with a minimum of fuss and bother.

As a form of dust curtain particularly convenient and suitable for coacting with the partitioned spaces to form a closure therefor, I show in Figures 5 and 6 a part of my invention, consisting of a curtain 50, which may be of cloth, leather or other suitably flexible material. One edge is attached to the bottom wall 22 adjacent the hinge 16, and the size of the curtain is preferably somewhat smaller than the inside dimensions of the case section 14. Around its edge the curtain 50 is fitted with slide fastener elements 52, which coact with similar elements 54 under control of the slides 56. The elements 54 are mounted on the edge strip 58, which may be made of cloth, leather, or the like. The strip 58 is attached to the walls 20 and 24 of the section 14, and extends inwardly somewhat from these walls, so that when the slide fasteners 52 and 54 are interlocked, the curtain 50 and the edge strip 58 form a complete closure for the section 14.

One of the particularly advantageous results obtained by use of the edge strip 58 is that the corner portions of it can be formed with an inside curve of relatively wide radius, as may be seen at 60. It is well known that the conventional slide fastener cannot be satisfactorily used or operated with sharp bends along the strip in the plane of the fastener. Formation of widely rounded corners in the strip 58, however, permits operation of the slide fastener with convenience and ease, where mounting of the strip 54 directly to the inside of the case might make operation unsatisfactory or perhaps impossible.

The dust curtain formed as described requires no hinge hardware or mounting, because of its own inherent flexibility. It is light in weight, and economical to manufacture. When closed, as in Figure 6, it gives a neat, clean-cut appearance, completely concealing articles in the partitioned compartments, and retaining them in their proper places. It has no marginal spaces or gaps which may admit dust or dirt to the interior of the case section. In the case of the conventional stiff panel type of partition or dust curtain, such gaps occur to a greater or less degree around all the edges, and especially adjacent the hardware and at the corners, as indicated at 62 and 64 in Figure 6.

Some changes may be made in the form and arrangement of the various elements of the construction above described, without departing from the real spirit and purpose of my invention, and it is my intention to cover by my claims any modified forms of structure or use of mechanical equivalents which may be reasonably included within their scope.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination a substantially rectangular receptacle having a bottom wall and four side walls; a partition member extending from one side wall to the opposite side wall with its ends substantially abutting said walls and forming a compartment on each side of said partition, said partition being provided with a hinging member securing it to the bottom wall; a second partition member disposed in one of said compartments between said first mentioned partition member and a side wall parallel thereto at a position intermediate the ends of and at an angle to said first mentioned partition; a hinging member securing the second partition member to the bottom wall, said hinging members providing means whereby said partitions may be swung to a position lying flat against said bottom wall or to a position at right angles thereto, said hinging members being so positioned that one end of said second partition abuts and braces the side of said first partition; and cooperating fastening members on the adjacent portions of said two partitions whereby said members may be positively secured and maintained in self-sustaining upright position to form completely separated compartments in the receptacle and releasable from each other for folding against said bottom wall.

2. In combination a substantially rectangular receptacle having a bottom wall and four side walls; a partition member extended from one side wall to the opposite side wall with its ends substantially abutting said walls and forming a compartment on each side of said partition, said partition being provided with a hinging member securing it to the bottom wall; a second partition member disposed in one of said compartments between said first mentioned partition member and a side wall parallel thereto at a position intermediate the ends of and at an angle to said first mentioned partition; a hinging member securing the second partition member to the bottom wall, said hinging members providing means whereby said partitions may be swung to a position lying flat against said bottom wall or to a position at right angles thereto, said hinging members being so positioned that one end of said second partition abuts and braces the side of said first partition, said second partition provided with a flap and snap fastener means on said flap and on the side wall of said first partition for engagement with each other to prevent hinging of said partitions when adjusted to upright position, and releasable from each other for folding the partitions against the bottom wall.

JOSEPH H. PLOTKIN.