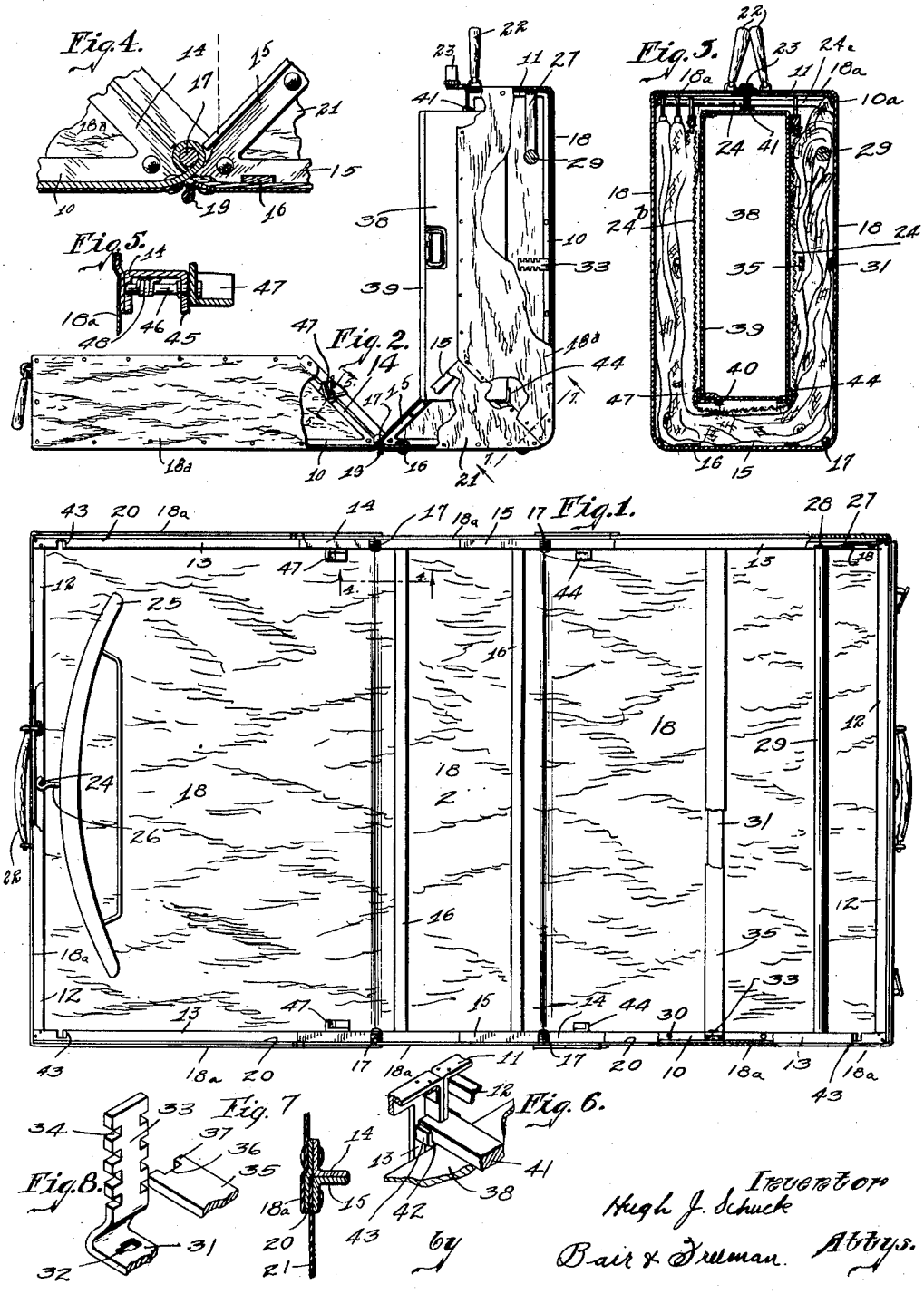
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H. J. SCHUCK

WARDROBE SUITCASE

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Inventor
Hugh J. Schuck
By Bair & Freeman Attys.

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HUGH J. SCHUCK, OF DES MOINES, IOWA.

WARDROBE SUITCASE.

Application filed April 2, 1923. Serial No. 629,331.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUGH J. SCHUCK, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Des Moines, in the county of Polk and State of Iowa, have invented a certain new and useful Wardrobe Suitcase, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a wardrobe suitcase of simple, durable and inexpensive construction.

A further object is to provide a wardrobe suitcase of the kind under consideration made of parts hinged together in such a way that the bottom and sides may be laid out to form a flat base upon which folded clothes may be laid.

A further object is to provide a novel structure whereby the clothes may be held in position against the bottom and side walls of the suitcase when the suitcase is closed, for thereby affording a central space in which is received a second receptacle and for holding garments with minimum creasing.

A further object is to provide improved means for conveniently supporting the second receptacle in the wardrobe suitcase.

With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of the various parts of my device, 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 shows a plan view of the suitcase in its open position, parts being broken away and parts being shown in section.

Figure 2 shows an end elevation of the suitcase, one side being open and laid down, parts being broken away and parts being shown in section.

Figure 3 shows a vertical, transverse sectional view through the suitcase closed.

Figure 4 shows a vertical, detail, sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 shows a detail, sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a perspective, detail, sectional view illustrating the manner of supporting the interior receptacle at the upper end of the suitcase.

Figure 7 is a detail, sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 2; and

Figure 8 shows a perspective, detail, sectional view of the means for holding the garments in the suitcase against the sides thereof.

My wardrobe suitcase consists of side and bottom members suitably hinged together.

Each side member consists of a substantially rectangular frame indicated in the accompanying drawings by the reference character 10, preferably made of angle iron. The frame structure in itself forms no part of my present invention.

At the upper end of the suitcase, frame members 11 extend horizontally inwardly from the corners. The inner ends of the frame members 11 of each side of the suitcase are connected by a transverse frame member 12.

Extending downwardly from the inner end of each frame member 11 is a frame member 13, which terminates at a point considerably above the level of the lower ends of the frame members 10.

Inclined downwardly and outwardly from the lower ends of the frame members 13 are frame members 14, which are connected at their lower ends with the lower ends of the frame members 10. The bottom member of the suitcase has the triangular end frames 15 connected at their lower, outer corners by frame members 16.

The lower corners of the side frame members and bottom members are hinged together at the ends of the suitcase in any suitable way as at 17. The lower edges of the suitcase are rounded as shown in the drawings.

The sides of the suitcase are covered by leather or the like 18, which is extended entirely around the top, sides and bottom of the suitcase, preferably in a single piece, when the suitcase is closed, so as to leave enough material to permit the folding, as at 19, (Figure 4), when the suitcase is open. The leather or other covering is fastened to the frame close up to the hinge lines, and the hinges are made as shown, so that a depression is left to receive the folds in the covering when the suitcase is open. (See Fig. 4.)

The ends of the sides are covered with leather 18^a (see Figure 2) and secured outside the leather or other covering material on the frame members 13 and 14 of one side member is a strip or the like 20 to overlap the edges of the opposite side member and the edges of the bottom.

The triangular sides of the bottom are covered by leather or the like 21. Any suitable covering may be employed.

The upper ends of the pair of frame members 10 of each side member are connected by a transverse frame member 10^a.

It will, of course, be understood that the upper end of each side is provided with a handle 22 and the coacting edges at the top of the case are provided with any suitable lock 23.

It will be noted that when the wardrobe suitcase just described is fully opened, the side walls and the bottom lie in the same plane and form an extended flat, horizontal surface upon which folded clothes or any other suitable contents may be conveniently and readily laid for maintaining such contents in position.

Suitable means are provided for supporting the garments when the suitcase sides are swung from their laid out horizontal positions shown for instance in Figure 1 to their closed positions, as illustrated in Figure 3.

A rod 24 extends from the frame member 10^a to the frame member 12 of one side member of the suitcase preferably midway between the ends of the suitcase, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 3.

Garment hangers 25 may be hung on the rod 24 by means of hooks 26 as shown in said figures.

Another rod 24^a may be similarly placed in the other side member and a dust cloth 24^b extended between the hangers on the rods to protect the garments or other contents from dust and from contact with the inner container hereinafter mentioned.

At the upper end of the other side member at the opposite ends thereof flat spring members 27 are secured to the members 11 to hang downwardly, as shown for instance in Figures 1 and 2, and to normally stand inwardly from the ends of the suitcase as shown in Figure 1, at the lower parts of the spring devices.

The spring devices are provided with holes which receive spindles 28 at the ends of a cross rod 29, shown in Figure 1, over which a garment or the like may be folded, as illustrated in Figure 3.

For snugly holding garments or other contents of the suitcase against the sides thereof, I have provided the following means:

Projecting inwardly from the members 10 are headed pins or the like 30. Cross bars 31 are provided with keyhole slots 32 to receive the pins 30. The pins 30 are arranged in opposite pairs so that when the suitcase is closed, the members of each pair will be at the same height, and by mounting the cross bar 31 on different pairs, the holding devices now under consideration may be adjusted to different heights with relation to the suitcase.

At each end of the cross bar 31 is a member 33 projecting at right angles from the cross bar and having spaced pairs of opposite notches 34. (See Figures 2 and 8.)

Holding strips 35 of resilient material are provided with notches 36 at their ends. At each side of each notch 36, it will be seen that there is a projecting member 37. After the garment has been placed in position, when the suitcase is laid out flat, the ends of the holding strip 35 are mounted on the members 33 for holding the garment or other contents of the suitcase in position.

It will be seen that the extensions 37 are projected into an opposite pair of notches 34 at one end of the suitcase and the strip 35 is sprung to permit the similar arrangement at the other end. When the strip 35 is released, it will hold the garment in position.

I have shown the holding devices just described on one side only of the suitcase, but it will, of course, be understood that they may be used on the other side, and when used they will hold the garments or other articles snugly against the side walls.

The bars 31 may be adjusted toward the top or bottom of the suitcase and the strips 35 can be adjusted toward or from the bars 31 for accommodating these holding devices to the contents of the suitcase.

I use an inside container comprising a boxlike member 38, having a side 39 hinged as at 40. (Figure 3.) Secured to the top side of the container 38 is a cross bar 41, shown in Figures 3 and 6, which projects beyond the ends of the container 38 slightly as shown in Figure 6.

Parts of the niwardly projecting flanges of the frame members 13 are cut and bent to form, when the suitcase is closed, the laterally projecting horizontal portions 42 terminating in the upwardly projecting portions 43 shown in Figure 6.

In closing the suitcase with the receptacle 38 therein, one side of the suitcase may be raised to vertical position, as shown in Figure 2, and the bar 41 placed in position resting on the portion 42 of the suitcase side member that has been raised to vertical position. The other side member is then moved to closed position, whereupon the cross bar 41 will rest on the portions 42 of the different side members and between the members 43 of the different side members, and when the suitcase side members are latched or locked together, the container 38 will be supported from its top on the frame members 13 near the top of the suitcase, so that the inside container 38 is supported almost directly from the handles 22.

It is my purpose to support the inside container from the top of the suitcase for the reason that this gives a stronger and more satisfactory structure and imposes less strain on the suitcase.

It also makes it possible to avoid the necessity of some supporting element projecting upwardly from the bottom of the suitcase to hold the container 38.

In the larger sizes of my wardrobe suitcase, I provide the following means for supporting the lower ends of the container 38.

Secured to the members 14 of the right-hand side member of the suitcase are angle iron supporting brackets 44, shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3, each having a flange to rest beneath the lower part of the member 38 and a flange to rest against one side thereof, as shown for instance in Figure 1.

The members 14 of the other side member of the suitcase are provided at the inner edges of their inwardly projecting flanges with tongues 45, inclined toward the side of the suitcase (see Figure 5).

Mounted in the vertical flanges in the members 14 now under consideration and the tongues 45 are spindles or the like 46, which project inwardly through the tongues 45 and have fixed to their inner ends angle iron supporting brackets 47 similar to the brackets 44.

The spindles 46 are rotatably mounted and springs 48 are provided for normally holding them in such position that when the side member of the suitcase on which they are mounted is in vertical position, the flange member or supporting bracket 47 designed to support the bottom of the container 38 is inclined slightly downwardly toward its free end.

When the suitcase side member now under consideration is raised from its position shown in Figure 2 to its position shown in Figure 3, the top of the member 38 will engage the other flange of the member 47 for slightly rocking the spindle 46 until the bracket 47 snugly fits against the container 38.

In the practical use of my improved wardrobe suitcase, the inside container 38 is removed and the suitcase is opened to its fully extended position, whereupon a flat bottom surface will be provided for laying out garments or the like.

The garments may be hung on the hangers 25 and if they are longer than the total length of the suitcase, as thus laid out, they may be folded over the cross rod 29. The garments may then be snugly held against the side walls of the suitcase by means of the strips 35 and the suitcase can be closed without disturbing the garments.

It will thus be seen that the garments will be held in such manner as to avoid wrinkling them to the greatest possible extent.

Ordinarily after the garments have been placed in position, one side, for instance the right side of the suitcase as shown in Figure 2, is raised to its upright position. The container 38 is placed in position with the bar 41 resting on the member 42 of the right-hand side of the suitcase.

Where the supporting brackets 44 and 47 are used, the bottom of the member 38 will then rest on the brackets 44, whereupon the left side of the suitcase is swung from its position shown in Figure 2 to its closed position shown in Figure 3.

The bar 41 will then rest upon the member 42 at the left-hand side of the suitcase. The suitcase can then be locked and the member 38 will be supported from the top of the suitcase almost directly from the handles as above stated.

In use, the wardrobe suitcase enables the user to carry clothes and keep them in good shape. The inner container may be removed, the suitcase extended and hung in a closet by one handle, and the garments will then be properly hung to avoid being wrinkled or pressed out of shape, without removing them from the suitcase.

Some changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the various parts of my wardrobe suitcase 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 a wardrobe suitcase of the class described, having bottom and side members hinged together to swing to position providing a flat bottom from end to end of the suitcase, an inner container member, and means at the ends of said suitcase for supporting said inner member at its upper portion and at its bottom portion in position spaced above the bottom of the suitcase.

2. In a wardrobe suitcase, a bottom member, side members hinged thereto to swing to position providing a flat bottom from end to end of the suitcase for receiving contents, means for supporting such contents adjacent to the top portions of each of said sides, a smaller container received within said suitcase and spaced from the bottom and side walls thereof and means on each side member at the ends of the suitcase for coacting with each other for supporting the container on said side members.

3. In a wardrobe suitcase, a bottom member, side members hinged thereto to swing to position providing a flat bottom from end to end of the suitcase for receiving contents, means for supporting such contents adjacent to the top portions of each of said sides, a smaller container received within said suitcase and spaced from the bottom and side walls thereof, said suitcase and container having coacting elements arranged on the container and the respective side

members at the opposite ends of the suitcase for supporting the container from the upper part of the suitcase.

4. In a wardrobe suitcase, a bottom member having triangular shaped ends, side members hinged to said bottom member, having end portions with inclined lower edges, said last end members being provided along their inclined lower edges with supporting devices, the supporting devices on one of said end members being slightly tiltable.

5. In a wardrobe suitcase, a bottom member, side members hinged thereto to swing to position providing a flat bottom from end to end of the suitcase for receiving contents, means for supporting such contents adjacent to the top portions of each of said sides, and means for holding such contents adjacent to the side walls of the suitcase, comprising resilient cross bars and means for adjustment up and down with relation to the top of the suitcase.

6. In a wardrobe suitcase, a bottom member, side members hinged thereto to swing to position providing a flat bottom from end to end of the suitcase for receiving contents, means for supporting such contents adjacent to the top portions of each of said sides, means for holding such contents adjacent to the side walls of the suitcase, comprising resilient cross bars and means for adjustment up and down with relation to the top of the suitcase and toward and from the side wall thereof.

7. In a wardrobe suitcase, a bottom member, side members hinged thereto to swing to position providing a flat bottom from end to end of the suitcase for receiving contents, means for supporting such contents adjacent to the top portions of each of said sides, a smaller container received within said suitcase and spaced from the bottom and side walls thereof, each side member having supporting devices near its top at its ends, and a projecting coacting cross bar on said container.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 24, 1923.

HUGH J. SCHUCK.