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TRI-PANELLED COLLAPSIBLE WARDROBE

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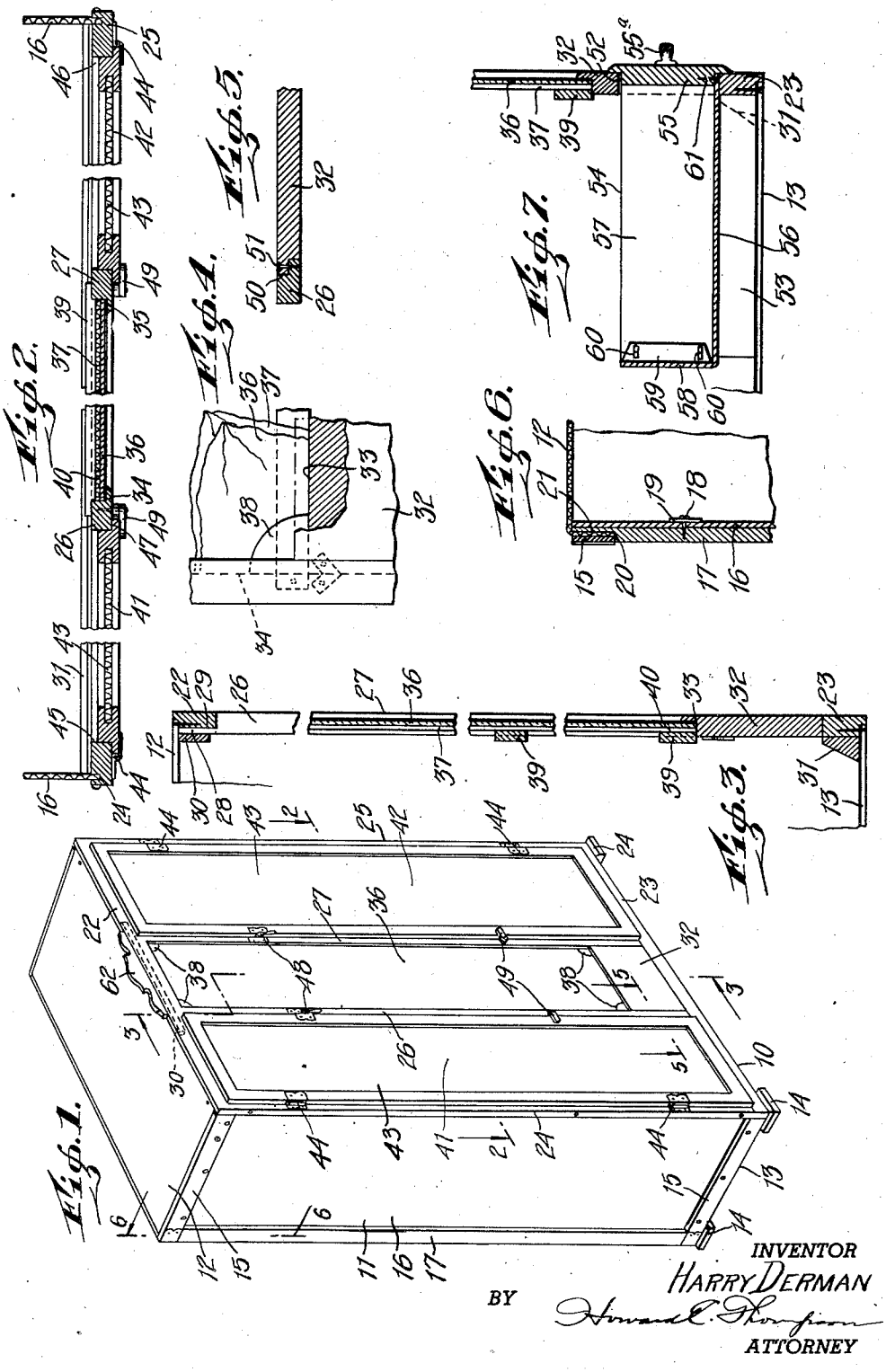


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

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TRIPANELLED COLLAPSIBLE WARDROBE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312—143)

1

This invention relates to wardrobes composed of collapsibly related parts or sections. More particularly, the invention relates to a product of this kind wherein an exceptionally large door frame construction is employed, which includes a wide center panel portion at opposite sides of which are arranged door members swingably supported in the frame. Further to the provision of frame strips or rails at the inner portions of the side rails of the wardrobe, which in conjunction with the reinforcing strips on the top and bottom walls, and further in conjunction with the door frame, will produce a strong and durable framework for the complete wide spread cabinet.

The novel features of the invention will be best understood from the following description when taken together with the accompanying drawing, in which certain embodiments of the invention are disclosed, and in which the separate parts are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a cabinet or wardrobe made according to my invention.

Fig. 2 is a partial horizontal section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, on an enlarged scale, with parts of the construction broken away.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the broken line 3—3 of Fig. 1, on an enlarged scale with parts of the construction broken away.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view showing the mounting of the mirror in connection with the center panel, with part of the construction shown in section.

Fig. 5 is a partial section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1, but omitting the door.

Fig. 6 is a partial section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1, on an enlarged scale; and

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 3, showing only a part of the construction and showing a modification.

In the construction of cabinets, wardrobes and the like of readily collapsible parts or sections composed of corrugated or similar paperboard reinforced by wooden frames, such products have been composed of a normal size and in what has been referred to as a large size cabinet in which the front door frame construction has been formed either of two door panels or a single door panel, and in some of these constructions, the front of the cabinet has also included narrow front wall portions.

My new cabinet or wardrobe may be generally classified as a three panelled construction or a "jumbo sized" cabinet, being of approximately one third larger than the normal large size cabinet, thus adapting the cabinet to a wider range of uses and for the storage of a greater amount of garments.

2

In accomplishing this result, a wide center panel construction is employed to give strength and rigidity and proper bracing to the front door frame construction, and still further to utilize the center framework, which comprises the two intermediate vertical rails, for supporting a mirror or similar panel, thus providing a more or less full length service mirror in direct association with the cabinet structure.

Further, the lower portion of the center panel of the wardrobe is made solid or of a thickness equal to the thickness of the intermediate vertical rails, and this solid panel portion may be cut-out to form a drawer opening in which other types of garments can be placed and stored within the wardrobe.

In the accompanying drawing, and aside from the modification illustrated in Fig. 7 of the drawing, no details with respect to the interior of the cabinet are disclosed. For example, no garment hanger rods are shown supported in connection with the side walls of the cabinet as in other devices of this kind, and also no interior shelving, which may or may not be employed.

In Fig. 1 of the drawing 10 represents a front door frame unit of the complete cabinet, 11 the unit comprising the back and side walls. The top and bottom wall units are designated at 12 and 13 respectively. The units 12 and 13 are generally of the same construction, excepting that the unit 13 includes at its corner portions foot members 14. However, in some forms of cabinets, these members may not be employed. The units 12 and 13 comprise sheet wall portions of corrugated or other fiberboard to the peripheral folded edges of which are secured reinforcing strips 15, the strips being arranged along the back and side edges only of these units.

With the present construction, each side wall 16 of the unit 11 includes at the rear end portion thereof a vertical reinforcing strip or rail 17 secured thereto by screws or similar fastening devices 18 which pass through large washers 19, note Fig. 6 of the drawing. It will appear that the screws are attached from the inside of the wall 16 so that the attaching devices are not visible externally of the cabinet.

Upper and lower ends of the rails 17 are cut-out as seen at 20, to form projecting tongues 21, which are adapted to fit within the flange portions of the top and bottom wall sections 12—13, and the strips 15 secured thereto, as clearly

shown in Fig. 6. Only one of these couplings is shown, but upper and lower ends of both strips 17 will be of the same construction.

The reinforcing strip 17 materially aids in strengthening and reinforcing the complete cabinet, and particularly the corners formed between the folds of the side wall members with the integral back wall member.

The door frame 10 comprises a large rectangular frame bounded by top and bottom rails 22 and 23 respectively, and vertical side rails 24 and 25. All of the rails 22—25 are grooved, as will be noted in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawing, to receive forward edges of the top and bottom walls 12 and 13, and the side walls 16 of the cabinet, and suitable fastening devices will be employed in securing the door frame to said walls.

The top and bottom rails 22—23 are also joined by widely spaced intermediate rails 26 and 27. The rails 26 and 27 are actually built into and form a unit part of the door frame construction. For example, the ends of the rails have tongues 28 fitting in grooved portions 29 on the inner surfaces of the rails 22—23, one of which mountings is shown at the top of Fig. 3 of the drawing. The frame is also preferably reinforced by top and bottom inner strips 30 and 31. The strip 30 comprising a short strip, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1, whereas the strip 31 preferably runs the full width of the cabinet. These strips 30 and 31 are preferably secured to inner surfaces of the top and bottom walls 12 and 13, and serve to stiffen the forward edges of these walls, and further to guide the placement of the walls in the grooves of the top and bottom rails 22 and 23 in the assemblage of the cabinet.

Lower ends of the rails 26 and 27 are joined by a solid panel portion 32, which reinforces the central panel portion of the frame and also minimizes the length of the opening in the panel, which opening is bounded by the rails 26—27 and the rail 22, as well as the panel portion 32.

The upper end of the panel portion 32 is grooved, as seen at 33, as are also inner edges of the rails 26 and 27, as seen at 34—35, to receive a mirror or other panel 36, having a corrugated or other cushioning back wall 37, which also fits in the grooves bordering the panel opening. The lower edge of the top rail 22 will be grooved similarly to the panel portion 32, and as the mounting of the mirror is the same at all corner portions, the brief description of one of these mountings will be sufficient.

Arranged in the grooves of the framework of the center panel at corner portions thereof are substantially triangular tabs 38, preferably of thin cushioning material, which will provide, in conjunction with the backing 37, a cushioned mounting of the mirror 36 in the door frame or the center panel portion thereof. Several transverse retaining strips 39 are secured to inner surfaces of the rails 26, 27, and have projections 40 which fit into the grooved portions of the rails to firmly press the backing 37 upon the mirror and also to reinforce the mounting of the mirror in the frame. These strips are illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawing.

Two substantially similar door members 41 and 42 are pivotally or hingedly mounted in the frame part 10, and arranged at opposite sides of the center panel. As each door member is of the same construction, the brief description of one will apply to both.

Each door comprises a rectangular reinforcing frame comprising rails grooved on inner edges to receive panel strips or sheets 43. In the present construction, hinges 44 are attached to the outer rails of the framework of the doors 41, 42, and to the adjacent rails 24, 25 in swingably mounting the doors in connection with the frame.

The doors 41—42 are adapted to fit snugly within the door openings 45, 46, formed between the rails 24, 26 and 25, 27 respectively, and the periphery of the door frames having projecting flanges 47 which overlie the strips or rails bordering the openings 45, 46 to form a tight closure as well as a neat and finished appearance. Further, these flanges also check closing movement of the doors. Suitable catch devices, as at 48 and 49 are employed to hold the doors in closed position.

In constructing the door frame unit 10, the panel portion 32 is built into and forms a fixed part of the frame. In addition to gluing as a method of fastening, side edges of the panel 32 have projecting flanges 50 seating in corresponding grooves in the vertical rails, for example the rails 26 shown in Fig. 5, and nails, screws or other fasteners 51 may also be employed. After the finishing paint coating or the like has been applied, the seams between the parts 32, 26 and 27 would not appear. Therefore, these seams are omitted in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

In Fig. 7 of the drawing, I have shown a slight modification wherein a panel 32 of the same general construction as that employed in Figs. 1 to 5 simply has a drawer opening 52 formed therein, and mounted on the bottom 13 of the cabinet will be two or more rearwardly extending drawer supporting rails 53. Thus a drawer 54 may be mounted in the lower portion of the cabinet and movable inwardly and outwardly through the panel 32. The drawer will comprise two parts, a front wall portion 55 of wood having an outer handle 55—*a*, and a cardboard or similar sheet folded to form a bottom wall 56, side walls 57, and a back wall 58.

The back wall will have inturned flanges 59 secured to the side walls 57 by spreaders or similar fasteners 60. The forward edges of the bottom wall 56 and side walls 57 will be secured to grooved portions of the front wall 55 by nails or other fastening devices as at 61.

With this construction, the drawer may be shipped in a collapsed condition along with the other collapsed cabinet or wardrobe, and then set up and assembled into drawer form, as illustrated in Fig. 7 of the drawing.

It will be understood that in the knockdown condition of the cabinet, the unit 10 constitutes a complete assemblage except for the top finishing strip 62 and the several parts including the collapsed drawer 54, which will represent a relatively thin package having a width substantially equal to the width of the door unit 10, and a height also substantially equal to the height of this unit. The reinforcing rails 17 are fixed to and foldable with the side walls 16 of the cabinet, which walls will fold inwardly upon the inner surface of the back wall. It will appear that the depth of the cabinet is substantially half or less than half of the full width thereof. This is largely due to the fact that the greater width is provided in the cabinet as compared to other cabinets of this kind as heretofore constructed.

The cabinet of the kind described will have a materially greater capacity for the storage of clothing and in addition, the wide center panel portion of the door frame gives strength to the central portion of the cabinet and, at the same

time, provides a practical means for mounting a full length mirror which will serve a useful and practical purpose in a product of manufacture of the kind under consideration.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a knockdown cabinet of the class described, a front door frame unit, said unit comprising a frame having four widely spaced vertical rails joined by top and bottom rails, all of the rails having inner surfaces in a common plane and outer surfaces in a common plane, said first named rails dividing the unit into elongated side door openings and an elongated central opening, doors movably supported in the unit and controlling said door openings, the vertical rails bordering the central opening having grooves on inner edges thereof, means mounted in said grooves for closing said central opening, transverse strips joining said vertical rails at vertically spaced intervals to support said means in the grooves of said rails, and said means including a drawer slidably supported in the lower portion of said central opening.

2. In a knockdown cabinet of the class described, a front door frame unit, said unit comprising a frame having four widely spaced vertical rails joined by top and bottom rails, all of the rails having inner surfaces in a common plane and outer surfaces in a common plane, said first named rails dividing the unit into elongated side door openings and an elongated central opening, doors movably supported in the unit and controlling said door openings, the vertical rails bordering the central opening having grooves on inner edges thereof, a solid panel closing the central opening in the lower portion of the frame, said panel having a groove in its upper edge in alinement with the groves in said vertical rails, a thin wall panel closing the remainder of said opening and seating in the grooves of the solid panel and said rails, means comprising strips joining said vertical rails at vertically spaced intervals for supporting the last named panel in position, said solid panel having an opening therein, and a collapsible drawer member movable inwardly and outwardly through said opening.

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