June 5, 1951 W. SATZ 2,555,820

STRAP GUIDE FOR BRIEF CASES OR THE LIKE

Filed March 26, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

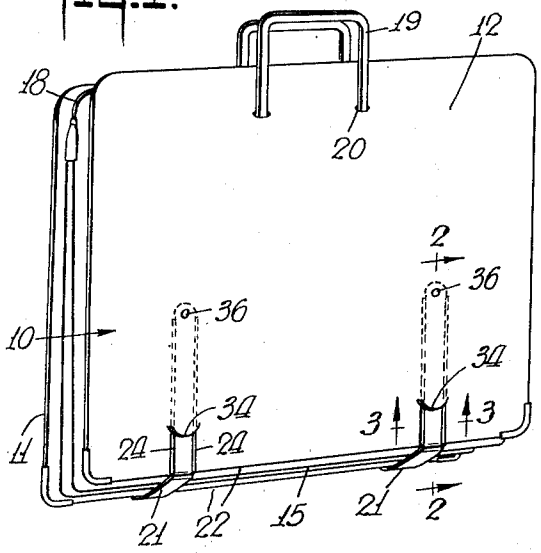


FIG. 2.

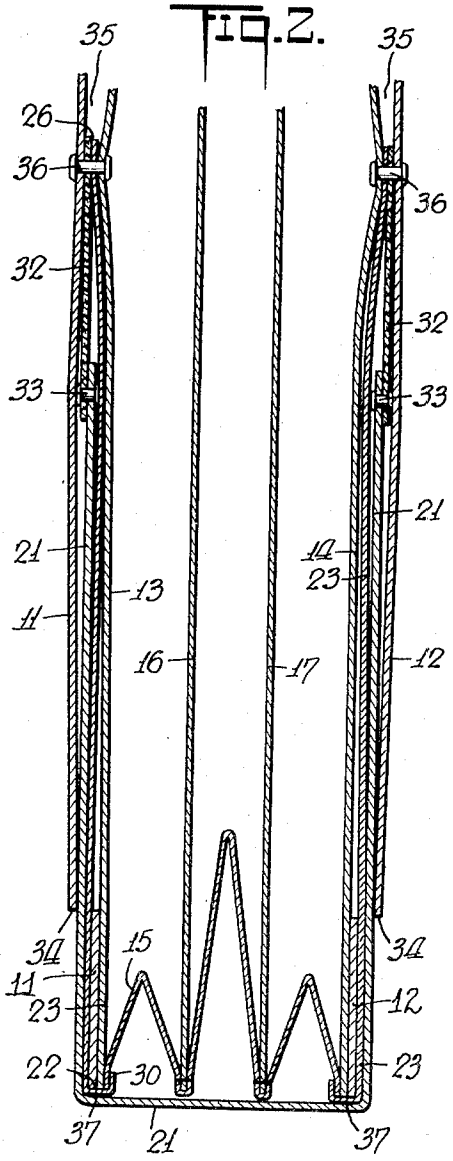


FIG. 3.

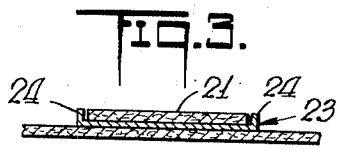


FIG. 5.

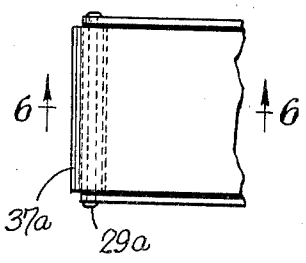


FIG. 6.

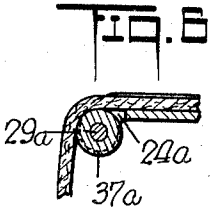
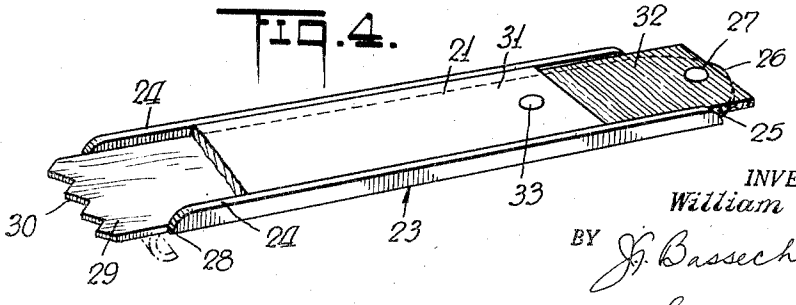


FIG. 4.



INVENTOR.
William Satz
BY J. Bassecheas
his ATTORNEY

June 5, 1951 W. SATZ 2,555,820

STRAP GUIDE FOR BRIEF CASES OR THE LIKE

Filed March 26, 1948 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 7.

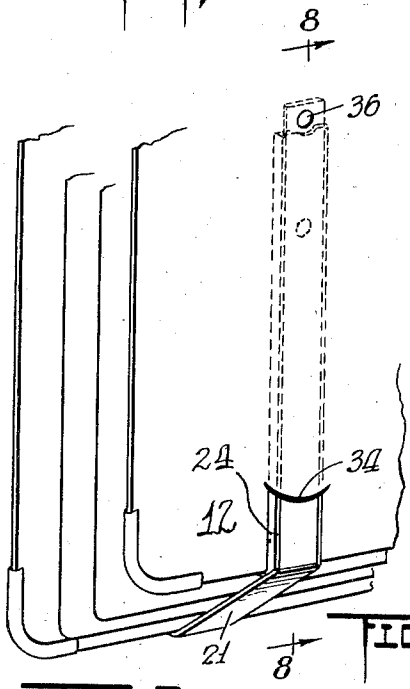


FIG. 8.

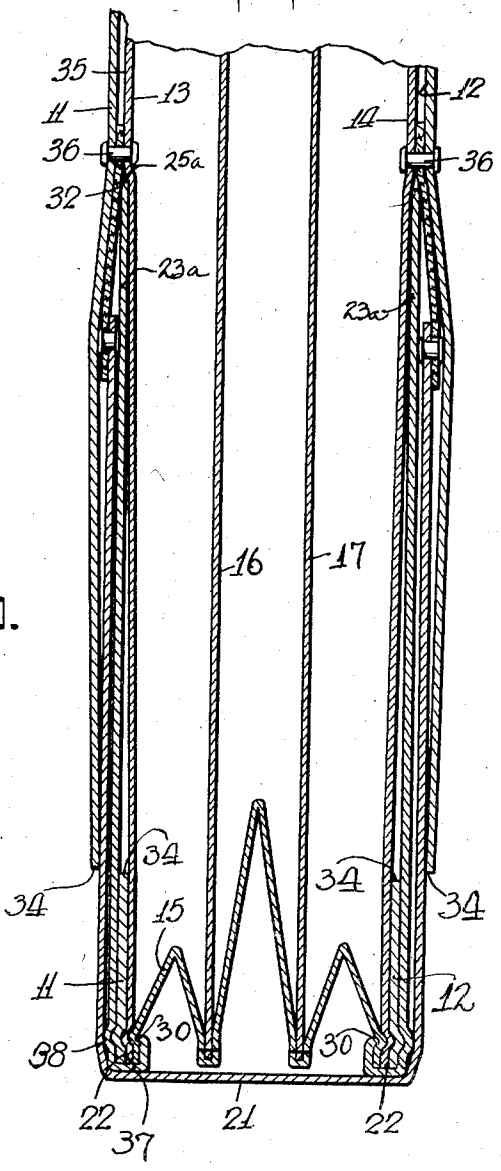


FIG. 9.

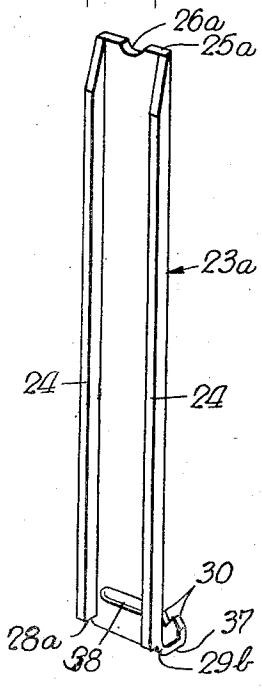
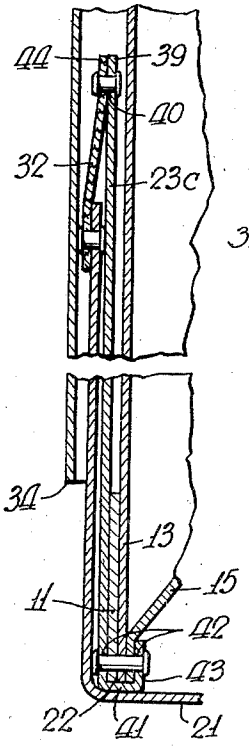


FIG. 10.



INVENTOR
William Satz
BY J. Basseches
his ATTORNEY

Patented June 5, 1951

2,555,820

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,555,820

STRAP GUIDE FOR BRIEF CASES OR THE LIKE

William Satz, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application March 26, 1948, Serial No. 17,338

7 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.6)

1

This invention relates to luggage construction; more particularly, to brief cases. This invention is directed to improvements over my invention set forth in my Patent No. 2,101,459, patented December 7, 1937.

In the construction in accordance with my prior invention comprising a gusseted brief case and compacting straps specifically having elastic sections, there has been the tendency to enlarge the utility thereof to carry rather bulky material which, with the tendency to substitute various grades of facing leather for the side walls, was found sometimes inadequate to respond to rough usage. Unsightly appearance, as well as disrepair soon came about, to render the construction not only unattractive, but to tend to hasten the effect of rough usage.

In the construction of the character described particularly employing supporting straps for the guessets including elastic sections, the distortion occasioned by bulking the material soon resulted in abnormal distension of the elastic segments, unusually reducing the life of these members.

Accordingly, it is an object of my invention to provide in a brief case construction comprising spaced walls connected by gussets and including supporting straps particularly adjacent the bottom thereof and joined by elastic sections to take up the distension of the brief case, of means to assure the efficient operation of the elastic sections in exerting their contractive influence upon the straps over the edge of the walls of the brief case and tending normally to draw the side walls together to the minimum dimension. It is contemplated by my invention to provide in a brief case of the character described and having gusset straps, of a guide for the straps adjacent the edges of the wall about which the straps pass to permit the elastic segments to exercise their contractive influence, with minimum wear and without distortion of the edge of the edge walls of the brief case.

Still further it is contemplated by my invention to provide in a brief case construction including supporting straps for the gussets, particularly those including elastic sections, of guides for the straps, permitting the straps to glide over the edge of the brief case wall, thereby aiding the elastic segments quickly to contract the brief case walls to the minimum space about the contents and without distortion of the side walls of the brief case, minimizing the effecting of an unsightly appearance as well as tending to reduce wear of the leather or the like of which the brief case is made.

2

Still further objects of my invention reside in the provision in a brief case including gussets reinforced by straps having shiftable sections, of guides for the straps to permit contraction and expansion of the brief case against the stress of the straps, quickly and efficiently, without warping or distorting the brief case walls.

Still further it is contemplated by my invention to provide strap guides for a brief case which will make possible an economical installation of these features.

To attain these objects and such further objects as may appear herein, or be hereinafter pointed out, I make reference to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating my improvement;

Figure 2 is a magnified fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of a guide member in accordance with another embodiment of my invention;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary plan view of a guide in accordance with a still further embodiment of my invention;

Figure 6 is a section taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of a still further embodiment of my invention;

Figure 8 is a magnified section taken on the line 8—8 of Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a channel guide employed in the construction shown in Figures 7 and 8;

Figure 10 is a fragmentary sectional view of a still further embodiment.

Making reference to the drawing, I have illustrated a brief case 10 which comprises wall sections 11 and 12, having inner linings 13 and 14 joined by the usual stitches at the peripheral edges by a layer of leather 15 forming the usual gussets holding partition elements 16 and 17. The upper edges of the walls 11 and 12 include a closure 18, preferably comprising some interconnecting fastening means there being shown for illustrative purposes, such as stringers joined with a slide fastener and actuator of well known design.

Suitable handles 19 are anchored to the upper edges of the side walls 11 and 12, and pass through the apertures 20 in the space between the lining and the facing walls in a manner which will be readily understood.

In accordance with the construction generally described in my patent aforementioned, I provide supporting straps 21 which are arranged to pass over the bottom edges 22 of the side walls 11 and 12, to provide support for the gussets adjacent the bottom of the brief case. In the construction in accordance with my present invention, I provide metallic stays or channels or guides 23, such as steel, brass, aluminum, having side flanges 24 spaced apart to permit ready guiding of the strap 21 along the length thereof, yet holding the same against sideward movement. The width and depth of the flanges 24 serve to encase the strap 21 so that pressure thereon by a flat body will likewise not restrain the free sliding movement of the strap 21.

Each channel or stay 23 is provided at its end 25 with an ear 26 having a drill hole 27. The end 28 of the channel is provided with an extension tongue 29, formed with serrations or teeth 30 which are shown in a position before shaping. With channels of the character thus provided, the straps 21 are formed adjacent their terminal ends 31 with lengths of elastic 32, joined to each end of the strap 21 by a rivet 33. Thereupon the brief case walls are formed adjacent the bottom with crescent shaped slits 34, to permit access to the space 35 between the outer wall and the lining 11, 13, and 12, 14, respectively. Assembly is effected by inserting the channels 23 into the slits 34, and projecting the channels and the elastic segments 32 to reach a predetermined position from the bottom edge 22, whereupon the channel is riveted in position by the rivets 36, to pass through the drill hole 27 of the channel 23, the edge of the elastic segments 32 joining the channel ear 26 and elastic 32 between the lining and the outer walls. The elasticity furnished by the segments 32 will thereupon permit exposing the tongue 29 which may be crimped to one side to form the loop or fold 37 about the edge 22 comprising the thickness of the outer wall, the lining, and the end of the gusset. The crimping may be effective to drive the teeth 30 into engaging position, to bind the tongue 29 into engagement with the edge 22 of the brief case and provide a gliding loop over which the strap 21 readily slides as the walls of the brief case are distended or are permitted to contract in filling or removing items from the brief case. The stiffness provided by the channel 23 even for a short distance equal to point of attachment of the strap will prevent the edge 22 of the brief case from becoming distorted or mis-shapen.

The maintenance of the rectilinear condition of the side walls of the brief case not only facilitates the gliding movement of the straps 21 along the length of the channel, but enhances the appearance of the outer layer constituting the walls 11 and 12. The flanges 24 do not interfere with the sliding movement of the joint constituting the strap and elastic 32, where connected by the rivet 33.

While the loop or fold 37 of itself reduces the friction in gliding of the strap 21 along the edge, I may further facilitate the contractive action of the elastic sections 32 by additional friction reducing elements as more particularly shown in Figures 5 and 6, wherein I extend the side flanges 24 to provide ears 24*a* which may trunnion the pin 29*a* and mount the roller 37*a*. In lining in position the channel carrying this feature, the roller 37*a* is positioned co-terminous with the edge 22, to guide the strap with relatively little

friction as it moves over the channel surface and about the bottom of the brief case.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 to 6, it will be understood that the necessity for passing the rivet 36 through the ear 26, the elastic section 32, and attaching the same to the side walls and lining may require that the finishing operation, such as by sewing the side walls and lining to each other and to the gusset, be deferred until the riveting operation has been completed. To reduce the labor involved in handling leather and the inflexible channel, I may modify the assembly in accordance with the form illustrated in Figures 7 to 9. In this construction, the operations include the assembly of the strap 21 by passing the same through the slits 34 and in the space 35 between the outer walls 11 and 12 and the lining 13 and 14, whereupon the rivets 36 are in this embodiment passed through the lining, the elastic segment and the outer wall. When this operation has been completed in accordance with the number of straps to be attached, i. e. two in number as more clearly illustrated in Figure 1, I then attach guide members 23*a*, as more clearly illustrated in Figure 9. These guide members may include adjacent the edge 25*a*, a notch 26*a*. Side flanges 24 are provided as in the prior embodiment. The end 28*a* is provided with a tongue 29*b* and folded to direct the teeth 30 to form a loop substantially in parallelism with the bottom wall of the channel 23*a*. The channel adjacent the teeth is formed with a transverse ridge 38.

With a strap guide of rigid material thus provided, the assembly operation includes underlying the guide 23*a* beneath the strip to enter the slit 34 until the notch 26*a* abuts the rivet 36, thereby sandwiching the channel end 25*a* between the elastic segment 32 and the lining. The strap and the elastic segment are nested between the side flanges 24. The length of the channel in accordance with the embodiment positions the loop 37 adjacent the edge 22 of the brief case, which edge constitutes portions of the inner lining, the end of the gusset and the edge of the outer wall of the brief case. In this position, the teeth 30 are clinched to drive the same into and penetrate the layers constituting the edge of the gusset, the lining and the outer wall of the brief case. The ridge portion 38 on its inside surface forms a groove and serves to re-direct and turn the teeth 30 into more intimate clinching engagement when clamped by the press.

It will be observed that by the construction illustrated in Figures 7 to 9, assembly of the flexible or leather parts of the brief case may be effected before interposing the rigid channel guide 23*a*.

As a still further embodiment of my invention, as more particularly illustrated in Figure 10, I provide a channel 23*c* whose inner end is formed with an ear 39 and an aperture 40 at one end. The opposite end is formed with a loop 41 and a drill hole 42 which passes through the web of the channel and the upstanding branch 43. With a construction as thus provided, the brief case is completed as to all manufacturing operations, including the provision of the crescent-shaped slits 34. Thereupon the strap 21 is assembled so that its opposite end 44 carrying the elastic segment 32 is affixed to the channel 23*c* by riveting that end thereof. A pair of the channels carrying the opposite ends of the strap 21 attached thereto as just described is affixed to

the brief case by passing one channel through a slit 34, until the loop 41 is in contact with an edge 22 of the brief case, sandwiching in the loop the edge of the gusset, the lining, and the edge of the wall. Thereupon a rivet or eyelet is driven through the perforation 42 to join the upstanding branch 43 firmly against the layers of the brief case comprising the gusset, the lining and the outer wall. The rigidity of the channel as supported from the edge 22 of the brief case maintains the strap in position.

By the construction provided, all of the features of my prior invention are secured, augmented however to permit ready gliding of the strap over the edge of the brief case. The rigidity of the channel serves to maintain the edge 22 against deformation in filling the brief case to capacity, and only a small portion of the width of the brief case (approximately one third) need be rigidified by the channel to retain the brief case free from distortion, adding long life to its usefulness.

Retraction by the elastic resilient members is effected quickly and efficiently after withdrawing the contents from the brief case.

In general, I have provided a brief case construction which may be quickly filled and which supports the gusset adjacent the bottom wall, increasing the useful life of the body of the brief case, effecting economies in the utilization of leather without limitation as to thickness and toughness.

Having thus described my invention and illustrated its use, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. In a brief case or the like construction comprising spaced side walls of flexible sheeting connected by gussets and straps, the ends of the straps being anchored on the side walls and extending over the bottom edges of the walls, and guides comprising rigid channels having free edge portions over which said straps pass.

2. In a brief case or the like construction comprising spaced side walls of flexible sheeting connected by gussets and partial straps, the ends of the straps extending into and being anchored intermediate the body of the side walls and including elastic sections drawing said walls to each other, the combination therewith of channel guides in which said straps nest, and over which said straps pass in surrounding the bottom edges of said walls.

3. In a brief case or the like construction comprising spaced side walls connected by gussets and partial straps supported on said walls and passing over the bottom edges of said walls to limit and restrain the expansion of said gussets in use, the combination therewith of rigid guide channels in which each of said straps are nested, including an edge over which said straps are directed in passing over said gussets.

4. In a brief case or like construction comprising spaced side walls of flexible sheeting each having an inner lining, said walls being connected by gussets, straps extending over the bottom edges of said walls for supporting said gussets and said straps including elastic sections, each of the free ends of said straps extending between one of said walls and the adjacent lining, means for anchoring each of the said ends to one of said walls and the lining and a stay comprising a channel member for each of said straps.

5. In a brief case or like construction comprising spaced side walls of flexible sheeting each having an inner lining, said walls being connected by gussets, straps extending over the bottom edges of said walls for supporting said gussets and said straps including elastic sections, each of the free ends of said straps extending between one of said walls and the adjacent lining, means for anchoring each of the said ends to one of said walls and the lining and a stay comprising a channel member for each of said straps, one end of said stay being affixed to one of said walls.

6. In a brief case or like construction comprising spaced side walls of flexible sheeting each having an inner lining, said walls being connected by gussets, straps extending over the bottom edges of said walls for supporting said gussets and said straps including elastic sections, each of the free ends of said straps extending between one of said walls and the adjacent lining, means for anchoring each of the said ends to one of said walls and the adjacent lining and a stay comprising a channel member for each of said straps, one end of said stay being affixed to one of said walls, the other end being braced between said lining and strap.

7. In a brief case or the like construction comprising spaced side walls of flexible sheeting connected by gussets and straps, the ends of the straps being anchored against movement in respect of the side walls, and extending over the bottom edges of the walls, and guides comprising rigid channels having free edge portions over which said straps pass.

WILLIAM SATZ.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
648,838	Bodenheimer	May 1, 1900
790,748	Rangnow	May 23, 1905
892,533	Maddux	July 7, 1908
1,158,841	Pingree	Nov. 2, 1915
2,101,459	Satz	Dec. 7, 1937