T. HONMA.

HANDBOX.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 28, 1921.

1,428,092.

Patented Sept. 5, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

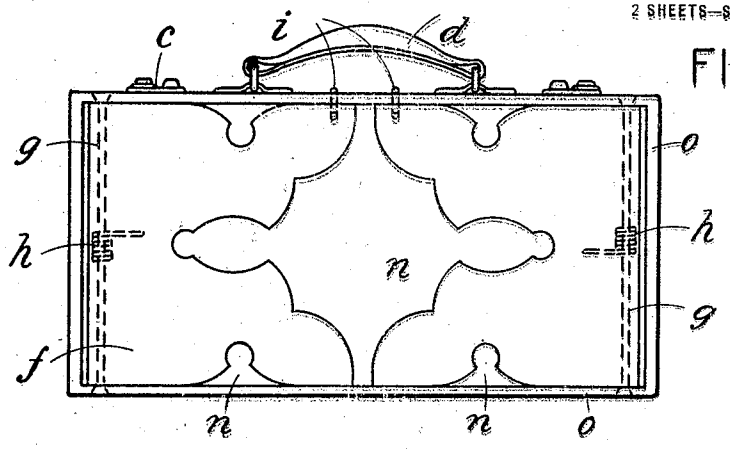


FIG. 1

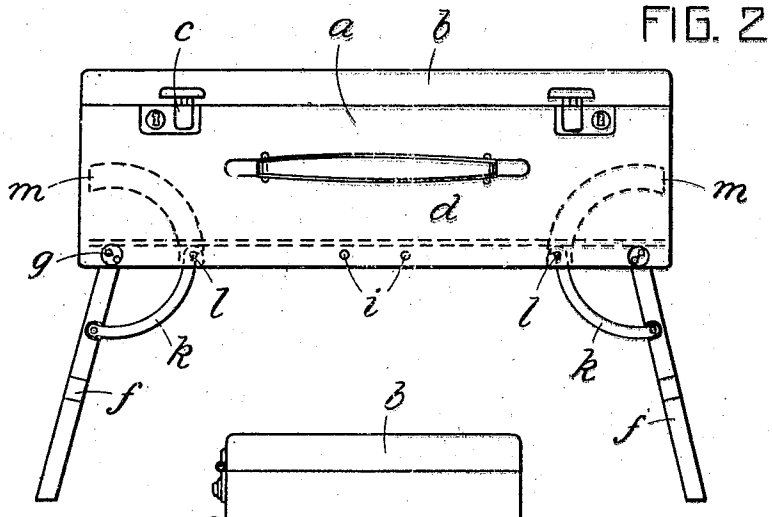


FIG. 2

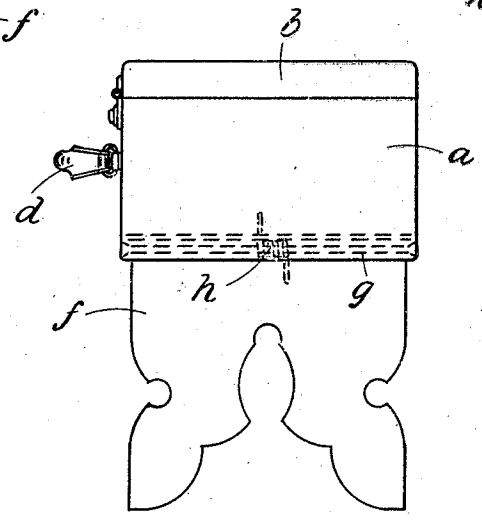


FIG. 3

Inventor:

Tetsuo Honma

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

FIG. 4

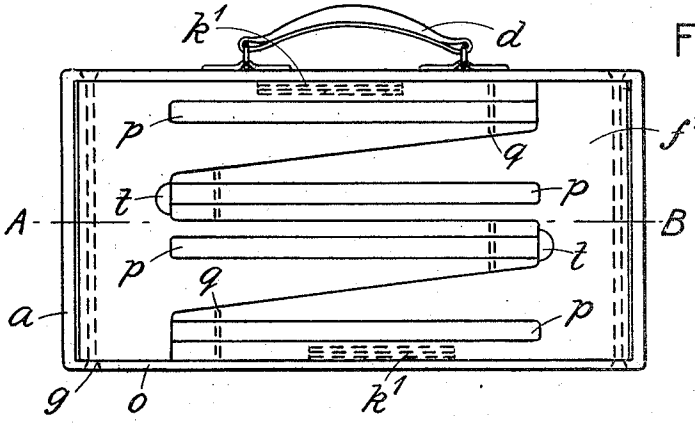


FIG. 5

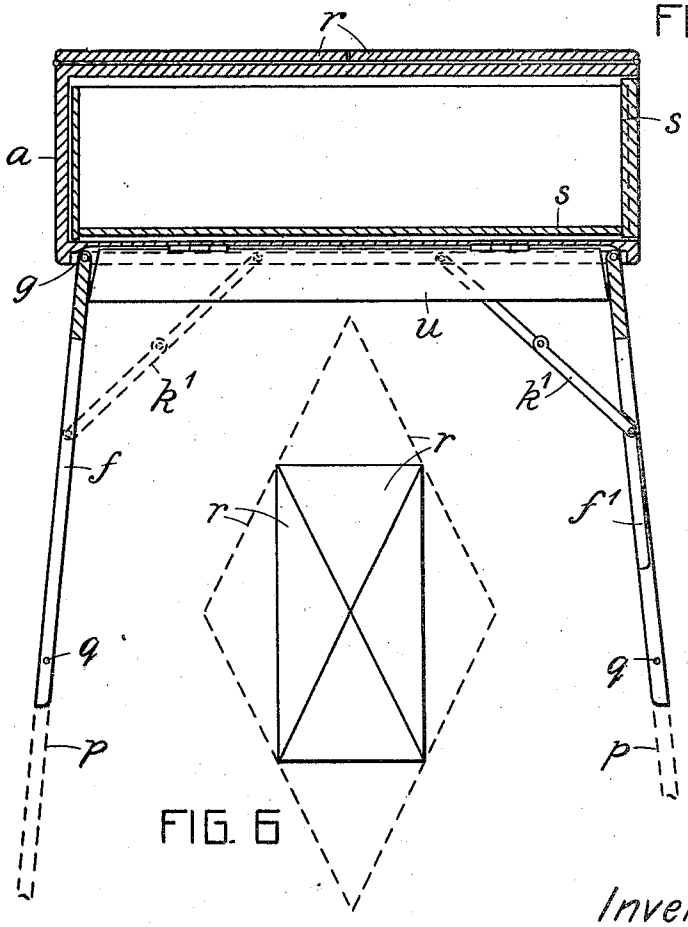


FIG. 6

Inventor:

Tetsuo Honma

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TETSUO HONMA, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

HANDBOX.

Application filed April 28, 1921. Serial No. 465,215.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TETSUO HONMA, a subject of the Emperor of Japan, residing at London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Handboxes, of which the following is a specification.

It has been proposed to provide travelling and like trunks with hinged flaps which fold into one side of the trunk and which are adapted to be extended so as to serve as legs for supporting the trunk in an elevated position, the opposite side of the trunk being also fitted with flaps which are hinged together and form an expansible table top.

The object of the present invention is to provide a handbox of this kind which, while presenting the normal appearance and while its capacity relative to the weight and size is not materially increased, can be turned into a comfortable seat or table.

With this object in view I fit the legs in the side of the box so that they form, when closed, a plain continuous surface and give the box side the appearance of being merely inlaid or ornamented. Thus a cover for the legs can be obviated.

The flaps are hinged to the box by means of rods which are passed through the flaps and concealed from view. The stays for holding the legs in supporting position are hinged to the flaps and to the box and fold into recesses so as to be concealed.

To provide for long legs, the flaps are cut so that the legs of one intermesh with those of the other when folded. When a table is required, a further lengthening of the legs is effected by means of pivotal or like extensions fitted in the legs, the opposite side of the box being then fitted with four flaps which are hinged to the edges of the box and form plain continuous surfaces whether folded or extended.

In the accompanying drawings the invention is illustrated by way of example,

Fig. 1 representing a side elevation of the box showing its normal appearance,

Fig. 2, a side elevation of the box converted into a stool, and

Fig. 3, an elevation of the latter.

Fig. 4 is a side view of a box of modified construction, and

Fig. 5, a side elevation of this box converted into a stool and shown in section on the line A—B of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a plan of the box on a reduced scale showing flaps for the formation of an enlarged table top.

A handbox *a* is provided with a lid *b*, locks *c* and a handle *d*, in the usual manner. The side opposite the lid is depressed to make room for two flaps *f* which are hinged to the box by means of rods *g* so that they can be turned out and serve as legs for converting the box into a stool or a table, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Coil springs *h*, arranged on the rods *g*, tend to open out the legs which are normally held in position by means of spring-catches *i*. At a depression of the latter, the legs are turned automatically into supporting position, in which they are retained by stays *k* and cross-pins *l* so that a perfectly rigid seating or like accommodation is obtained.

The rods *g* and springs *h* are embedded in the material of the flaps so as to be entirely hidden from view. One end of the rod *g* is headed and countersunk in the box-side, and the other one is threaded to receive a countersunk nut. The stays *k* are guided in slots *m* made for the same in the box wall and in which they are normally concealed. The spaces, if any, formed between the folded flaps *f* are filled in with correspondingly shaped pieces *n* which, as well as the flaps, are flush with the outer edges *o*. Thus, the side of the box will ordinarily appear as if merely ornamented or inlaid, without revealing its nature as a combination article.

A modification of the construction and a further development of the invention is shown in Figs. 4 to 6.

In the first place the flaps f^1 are cut so that the legs intermesh when folded and occupy the whole area of the box side, as shown in Fig. 4. Thus the legs can be made longer so as to heighten the stool. The legs may be formed with extensions *p* which are adapted either to be drawn out telescopically or to be turned about a hinge *q* into position for supporting the box sufficiently high to be used as a table. The opposite side of the box may be furnished with flaps *r* (preferably four, divided diagonally of the box), said flaps being hinged to the edges of the box so that they can be unfolded for extending the surface of the table top as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 6. Suitable catches of

known construction are used for securing the flaps in folded position.

Instead of the usual lid, the box may be fitted with a drawer *s* adapted to be drawn out from one of the ends of the box.

The springs *h* may be omitted for the sake of simplicity, recesses *t* (Fig. 4) being made in the flaps f^1 through which the ends of the legs can be caught for unfolding.

The stays k^1 may be formed of hingedly connected links adapted simply to limit the spreading movement of the legs. A strip *u*, let into and hinged to the bottom of the box, is adapted to be turned out, as shown in Fig. 5, to prevent the legs from closing.

The box is suitable for use in theatre queues and on race courses and the like. Hawkers will find it a useful implement for carrying and displaying their goods.

The invention may be applied to a gramophone box and will then enable the instrument to be conveniently carried as well as supported for play.

I claim:—

1. In a handbox of the character described, hinged flaps fitted in one side of the box so as to be flush and continuous throughout the entire extent of the bottom with adjacent surfaces when closed and so that they can be turned out to serve as legs for converting the box into a stool or a table, substantially as set forth.

2. In a handbox of the character described, flaps fitted in one side of the box so as to be flush and continuous throughout the entire extent of the bottom with adjacent surfaces, rods concealed in the legs and connecting the latter to the box so that they can be turned out to serve as legs for converting the box into a stool or a table, and collapsible stays hinged to the box and the legs for holding the legs in supporting position, the stays being arranged so as to be concealed when the legs are closed, substantially as set forth.

3. In a handbox of the character described, hinged flaps fitted in one side of the box so that they can be turned out to serve as legs for converting the box into a stool or a table, the flaps being cut so as to intermesh and so as to be flush and continuous throughout the entire extent of the bottom with adjacent surfaces when closed, substantially as set forth.

4. In a handbox of the character described, hinged flaps fitted in one side of the box so that they can be turned out to serve as legs for converting the box into a stool or a table, the flaps being cut so as to intermesh and so as to be flush and continuous throughout the entire extent of the bottom with adjacent surfaces when closed, a distancing strip hinged to the box between the flaps, and stays cooperating with said strip for holding the flaps in supporting position, the stays being foldable and normally concealed in the box, substantially as set forth.

5. In a handbox of the character described, hinged flaps fitted in one side of the box so that they can be turned out to serve as legs for converting the box into a stool or table, the flaps being cut so as to intermesh and so as to be flush and continuous throughout the entire extent of the bottom with adjacent surfaces when closed, means for securing the flaps in supporting position, and extensions fitted in the flaps for increasing the length of the legs, substantially as set forth.

6. In a handbox of the character described, hinged flaps fitted in one side of the box so that they can be turned out to serve as legs for converting the box into a stool or table, the flaps being cut so as to intermesh and so as to be flush and continuous throughout the entire extent of the bottom with adjacent surfaces when closed, means for securing the flaps in supporting position, extensions fitted in the four flaps for increasing the length of the legs, and flaps hinged to the edges of the opposite side of the box so as to form an expansible table top, substantially as set forth.

TETSUO HONMA.