No. 732,983. PATENTED JULY 7, 1903.

J. R. WHITNEY.

DRESS SUIT CASE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 4, 1903.

NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

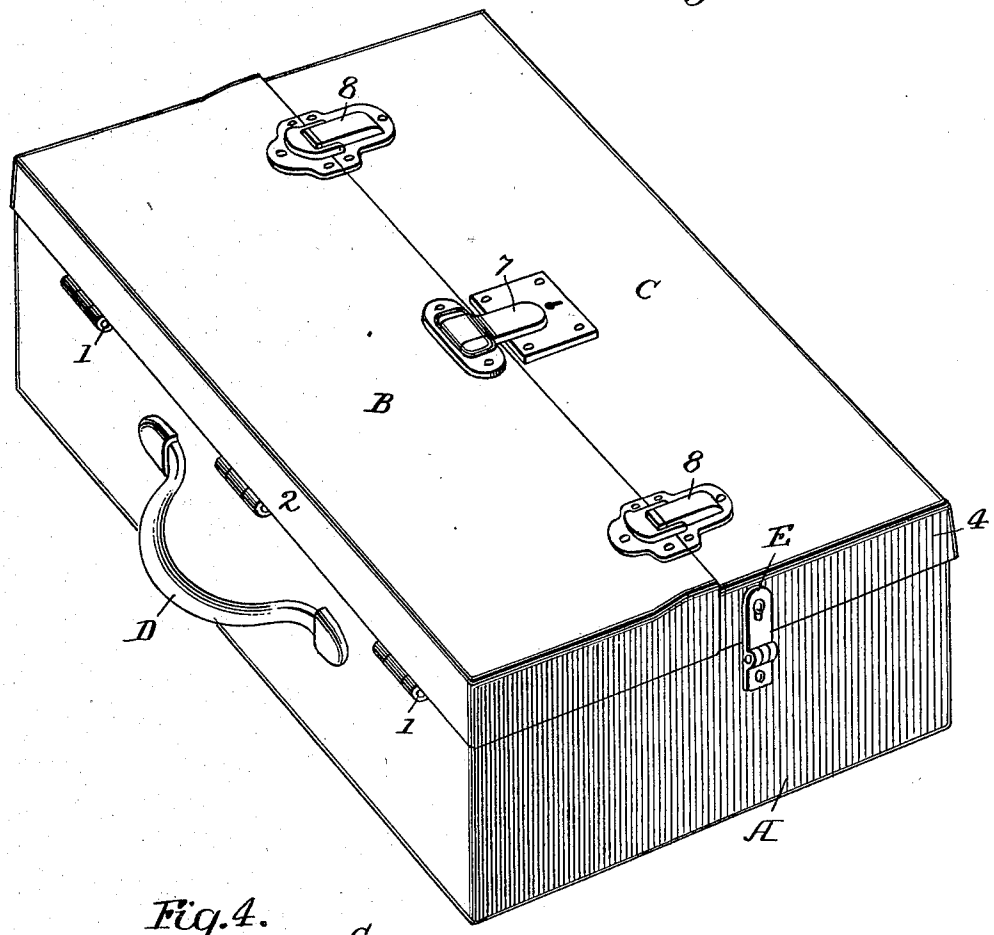
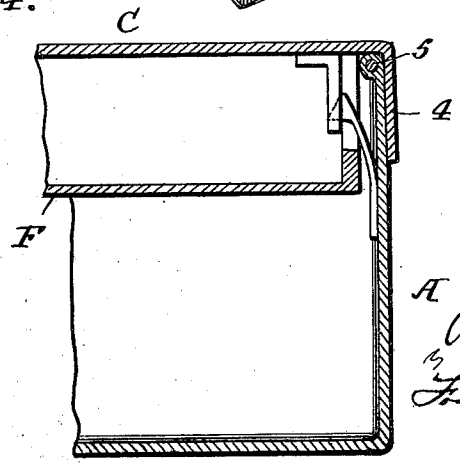


Fig. 4.



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NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

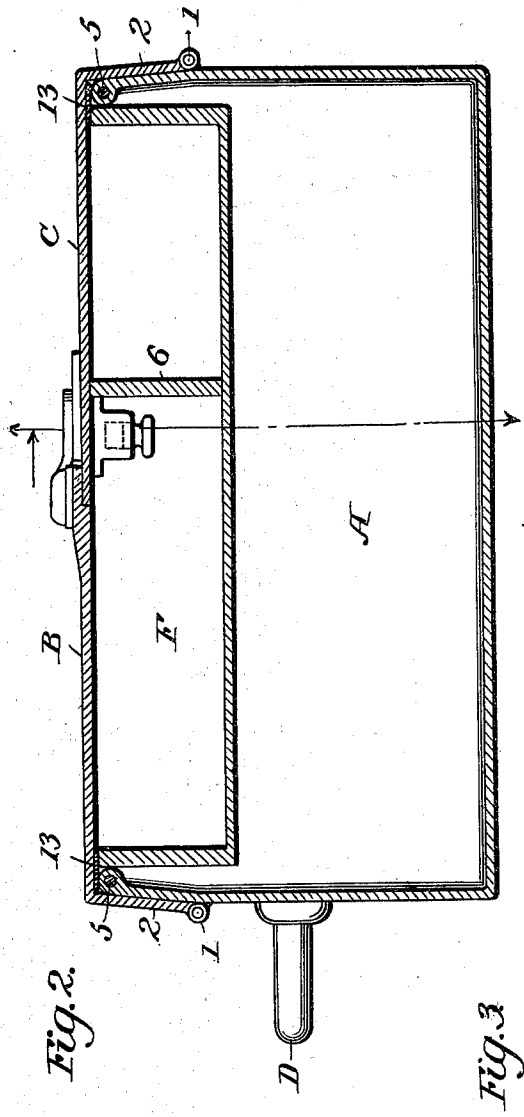


Fig. 2.

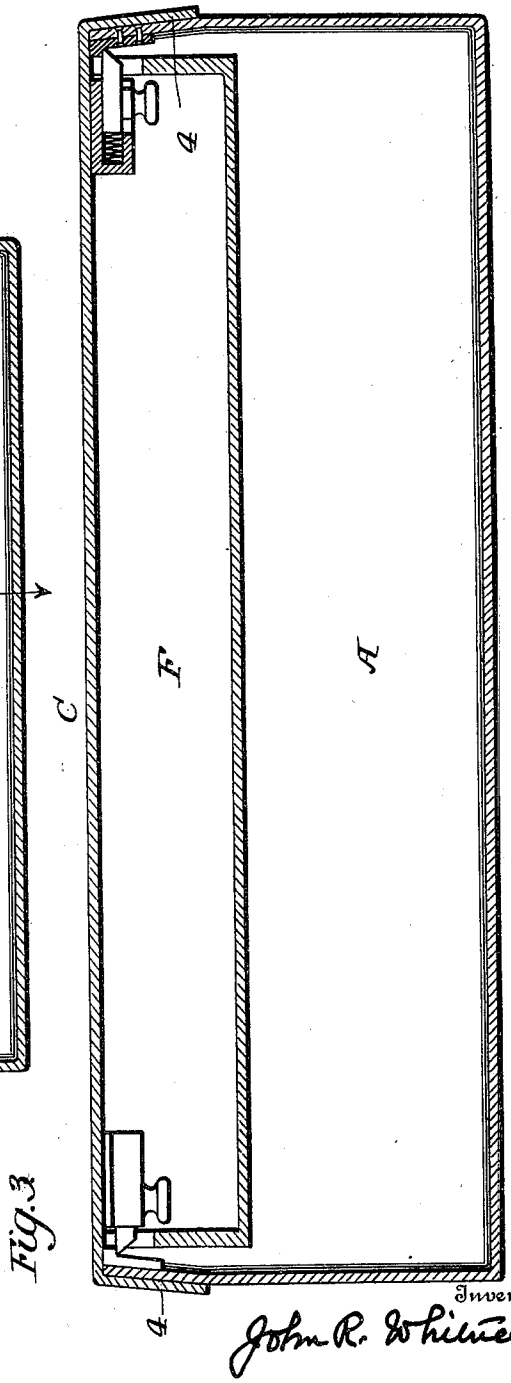


Fig. 3.

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No. 732,983. Patented July 7, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN R. WHITNEY, OF RADNOR TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

DRESS-SUIT CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 732,983, dated July 7, 1903.

Application filed April 4, 1903. Serial No. 151,149. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN R. WHITNEY, a citizen of the United States, residing in Radnor township, in the county of Delaware and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dress-Suit Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to dress-suit cases, and has for its object to afford room for the reception of a detachable tray, to permit a better disposition, and to better retain and avoid exposure of the contents on opening than in dress-suit cases of ordinary construction; and to this end I construct the parts as fully set forth hereinafter and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved dress-suit case. Fig. 2 is a transverse section. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section, and Fig. 4 is a view of a spring-latch to secure one lid.

The body A of the case is a single box open at one of its larger sides constituting the top and with the handle D at one of the narrow sides, and the top is closed by means of two lids B C, each of which has side flanges 4 4 and a back flange 2, which latter is hinged at 1 to the adjacent narrow side of the box. There is no flange, however, at the inner edge of either lid, and neither has to be strengthened by a projecting rib or flange; but the two edges can overlap each other, as shown in Fig. 2, without any substantial projection at the top of the receptacle when it is lying flat or at the side when it stands on edge. By hinging each lid at a point 1 below the upper edge of the body this edge may be strengthened by means of a strengthening-rod 5 or in any other way desired. The hinges along the line 1 are thereby better preserved in line with each other than if they were at the upper edge, while when the lids are thrown open they are carried fully away from the opening in the box. The two lids may be connected together by an ordinary lock 7 and clasps 8 8, as is common in receptacles of this character, or in any suitable way.

To permit of opening one lid without disturbing the other, the inside of the cover or lid C is provided at each end with an ordinary spring bolt or latch, which lock is fast when closed or shut down to the body of the box by either a horizontal sliding movement, as shown on Fig. 3, or by a swinging movement, as shown on Fig. 4, or it may be secured by ordinary spring-clips on the outside of each end of the box, as shown at E, Fig. 1.

A detachable tray F has lips 13 bearing on the edge of the box A at the ends, or it may be otherwise supported, and this tray may be divided by one or more partitions 6, as desired. Suitable openings or notches in the two ends of the tray should be made to allow for the free action of the spring bolts or latches which lock one of the covers to the body of the box, as heretofore described.

Without limiting myself to the precise construction shown, I claim—

1. A dress-suit case having a box-like body having an open side, strengthening-rods in the edges of two opposite sides, two lids for closing said open side, each being hinged to a side of the box having the strengthening-rods, and a flat tray within the box below the lids and having lips to rest upon the edges with the strengthening-rods, substantially as set forth.

2. A dress-suit case having a box-like body with a handle at one of its narrow sides and open at the top, a tray removably supported within the body and extending from side to side thereof, two flat lids for closing the open top hinged to the sides of the box and overlapping at their meeting edges, fastening devices for securing one of the lids to the box when down, and fastening devices for securing the overlapped portions of the lids one to the other, substantially as set forth.

3. A dress-suit case having a box-like body with a handle at one of its narrow sides and open at the top and with two lids, each with flanges 2, 4, one lid overlapping the other at the center, and each hinged to one of the narrow sides at the bottom of the flange 2 below the upper edge of the body, and a strengthening-rod 5 in each of said edges, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN R. WHITNEY.

Witnesses:
HENRY STOTT,
WM. J. GRAHAM.