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PARTITIONED HAT BOX

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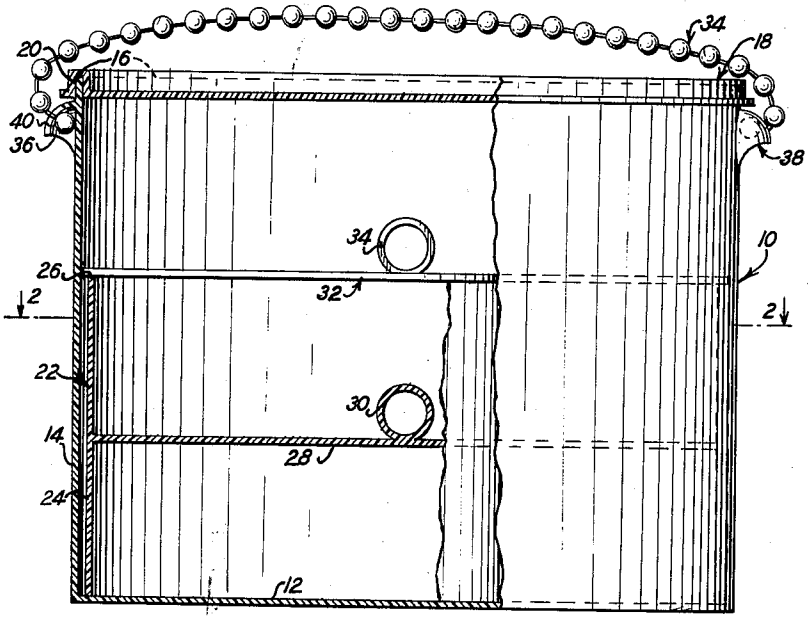


Fig. 1

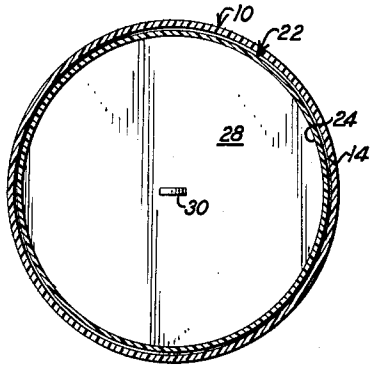


Fig. 2

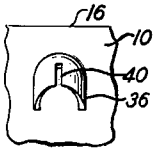


Fig. 3

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PARTITIONED HAT BOX

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The present invention relates to a box for holding objects such as hats, and more particularly to such a box having dividers and partitions therein to enable the box to support one or more articles, such as hats, depending upon the size or sizes thereof.

Hat boxes are commonly manufactured and used for storing hats (and similar objects), these boxes typically being made of cardboard or pasteboard. Such hat boxes are intended to hold, usually, only a single hat, such as a regulation man's hat or a tall woman's hat. However, it is often desirable to make maximum use of the storage space contained within the hat box, and in some cases additional hats are placed in the hat box. For example, a man's hat may be stored in the hat box and a small flat woman's hat may be placed upon it. This results in denting or scuffing of one or the other of the hats, or a bending of the ornamentation of the women's hat, and so is undesirable from that standpoint.

While it has been suggested that hat boxes could be made with partitions or dividers, the constructions suggested has either limited the number of hats which may be placed within a given hat box, or has provided for storing hats on their edges, rather than in a flat position. Thus, those hat boxes previously known have had limited flexibility in the number and types of hats which they could store, and have stored the hats in undesirable positions.

In addition to storing hats, hat boxes are often used for transporting hats, as when trips are being taken and suitable hats and clothing are to accompany the person. In such cases, it is desirable that the hat boxes have suitable handles which will not only securely and positively support the hat, but which will serve to secure the lid on the hat. Those hat boxes now known have not provided for security of the lid to the extent desirable.

Particularly in connection with hat boxes which are to be used for transporting hats, it is desirable that a hat box of sturdy construction be provided, and yet be relatively economical. The prior hat boxes have been relatively flimsy, so that they would not stand up under the rough handling which often occurs during traveling, or have been unduly expensive.

An object of the present invention is to provide a hat box or the like capable of holding a number of hats of various sizes, and holding the maximum number of hats possible within the capacity of the hat box, depending upon the size or sizes of the hat or hats to be contained therein.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a hat box which is capable of supporting one or more hats in an assortment of both men's and women's hats.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a hat box construction which is economical to manufacture and is made of a relatively few, readily fabricated parts.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a hat box which is capable of being utilized for traveling without danger of accidental disassembly of the lid therefrom.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a hat box having a lid which is dust proof and which will remain securely on the box.

Other objects and many of the attendant advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following specification and drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a vertical cross sectional view of a hat box in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a detailed view taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1.

Referring now to the drawings, wherein like or corresponding reference numerals are used to designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, there is shown in FIG. 1 a hat box generally designated **10**. The hat box **10**, including substantially all of the parts thereof, is preferably made of a transparent material so that the contents thereof may be readily viewed. Among materials which are suitable for use in making the hat box of the present invention are polyethylene, polystyrene, polypropylene and polyallemer.

Hat box **10** has a bottom wall **12** and a side wall **14** extending upwardly from the periphery of bottom wall **12**. Side wall **14** has a free upper edge **16** which preferably lies in a plane parallel to the bottom wall **12**. A lid **18** is provided, and has a downwardly facing, circumferentially extending channel **20** which sits on the upper edge **16** of side wall **14**. The material of which lid **18** is made is somewhat resilient, so that a gripping action is provided by the channel **20**, thus serving to secure the lid **18** in position on the side wall **14** and to prevent dust from entering the box **10**.

As may be seen from FIG. 2, the container **10** is preferably cylindrical, but other shapes may be used where preferred. Within the side wall **14**, and closely there adjacent, is a divider generally designated **22** and comprising an upstanding wall **24** in the form of a hollow sleeve. Wall **24** of divider **22** extends upwardly from the bottom wall **12**, upon which it rests, and has an upper edge **26** which may be seen to be intermediate the bottom wall **12** and the upper edge **16** of side wall **14**. Divider **22** has a partition **28** extending across it, partition **28** in the preferred embodiment being secured to the wall **24** at approximately the midpoint thereof. Secured to partition **28** of divider **22** is a handle **30** in the form of a ring-like member.

A planar support plate **32** extends laterally across the side wall **24** of container **10** and rests upon the upper edge **26** of divider **22**; support plate **32** is provided with a handle **34** similar to handle **30**.

On the outer side of side wall **14** of hat box **10**, at oppositely disposed points, there are provided a pair of ears **36** and **38**. These ears **36** and **38** are generally similar in construction, and as may be seen from FIG. 3 are made of concavely shaped pieces of material, such as the plastic materials aforementioned. As may be seen from FIG. 3, the ear **38** is provided with a slit **40**. A handle of flexible material and preferably in the form of a bead chain is provided, the handle being generally designated **42**. By slipping the end beads of the bead chain **42** beneath the ears **36** and **38**, handle **42** may be readily and securely attached to the hat box.

In use, the handle **42** may be placed in a position where it lies outwardly of the lid **18**, and the lid may thereby be removed. To store three relatively flat hats, handle **34** of support plate **32** is grasped to remove the support plate **32**, and then handle **30** of partition **28** is grasped and the partition **22** is thereby removed. A first small hat is then placed within the hat box **10**, lying on the bottom wall **12**. Then the divider **22** is replaced so as to occupy the position shown in FIG. 1. If a relatively large hat is to be stored, it is placed in hat box **10** and rested upon partition **28**. On the other hand, if two more small hats are to be stored, one of them is placed upon the partition **28**, then the support plate **32** is placed in position and the other, or third, small hat is placed upon the support plate **32**. The lid **18** is then placed in posi-

tion, and the hat box **10** may be either stored upon a shelf, or the like, or if it is desired to transport the hat box **10**, the bead chain handle **42** will act as a lock to prevent the lid **18** from separating from the bottom portion of container **10**.

Where a single tall hat is to be carried in the hat box **10**, both the divider **22** and support plate **32** may be removed therefrom and the very large hat placed within the hat box **10** and the lid **18** placed thereon, as above described.

There has been provided a hat box which has great flexibility in the number and sizes of hats which may be contained therein, the hat box of the present invention accommodating one, two or three hats of varied sizes, supporting each hat individually. The hat box hereinabove described may be manufactured of economical and readily available material, utilizing known and economical manufacturing procedures. This hat box is constructed so that the lid is securely held in place on the hat box bottom portion, and is provided with a handle which serves the dual purpose of carrying the hat box and securing the lid in position against accidental dislodgement. The hat box herein provided is dust proof, so as to protect the hats therein from dust which normally drifts into even a closed box.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and therefore the invention is not limited to what is shown in the drawings and described in the specification but only as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A hat box comprising a bottom wall and side wall means extending upwardly from the periphery of said bottom wall to define a container open at one end, said side wall means having a free upper edge; a lid for said hat box adapted to close said container, said lid having a downwardly opening channel extending continuously thereabout and disposed adjacent the periphery thereof, said channel being dimensioned to frictionally receive said free upper edge and the adjacent upper portions of said side wall means; divider means within said container comprising upstanding wall means and a partition, said upstanding wall means comprising a hollow sleeve having upper and lower edges disposed at least substantially parallel to one another and at least substantially parallel to said bottom wall, said partition being secured within said sleeve intermediate the upper and lower edges thereof and at least substantially parallel to said bottom wall, said upper edge of said sleeve terminating in downwardly spaced relation to said free upper edge of said side wall means, said side wall means and said sleeve being of corresponding configuration, the lower edge of said sleeve resting on and extending entirely about the inner periphery of said bottom wall whereby said sleeve underlies continuously the adjacent portions of said side wall means, said partition having a handle loop disposed centrally thereof and facing upwardly therefrom; a support plate disposed within said container and having its periphery resting on the upper edge of said sleeve whereby compartments are formed within said container between said partition and said bottom wall, said partition and said support plate, and above said support plate, said support plate having a handle loop disposed centrally thereof and facing upwardly therefrom, a pair of opposed fastening means disposed centrally on opposite sides of said side wall means adjacent the upper free edge thereof, and a flexible handle secured at opposite ends to said fastening means.

2. A hat box comprising a circular bottom wall and a cylindrical side wall means extending upwardly from the periphery of said bottom wall to define a cylindrical container open at one end, said cylindrical side wall means having a free circular upper edge; a circular lid for said hat box adapted to close said container, said lid having a downwardly opening circular channel extending continuously thereabout and disposed adjacent the periphery thereof, said channel being dimensioned to frictionally receive said free upper edge and the adjacent upper portions of said cylindrical side wall means; divider means within said container comprising upstanding wall means and a circular partition, said upstanding wall means comprising a cylindrical hollow sleeve having upper and lower circular edges disposed parallel to one another and parallel to said bottom wall, said circular partition comprising a plate secured within said sleeve intermediate the upper and lower edges thereof and parallel to said bottom wall, said upper edge of said sleeve terminating in downwardly spaced relation to said free upper edge of said side wall means, the lower edge of said sleeve resting on and extending entirely about the inner periphery of said bottom wall whereby said sleeve and said cylindrical side wall means are concentric, said partition having a handle loop fixed thereon centrally thereof and projecting upwardly therefrom; a circular support plate disposed within said container and having its periphery resting on the upper edge of said sleeve whereby compartments are formed within said container between said partition and said bottom wall, said partition and said support plate, and said support plate and said lid, said support plate having a handle loop fixed thereon centrally thereof and projecting upwardly therefrom, a pair of opposed fastening ears disposed centrally on opposite sides of said side wall means adjacent the upper free edge thereof, said ears projecting outwardly from said side wall means and having downwardly opening slots therein and a flexible handle, said flexible handle comprising a ball chain, the balls of said chain being dimensioned to retain said chain in said slots when a ball of said chain underlies the slot in one of said ears.

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