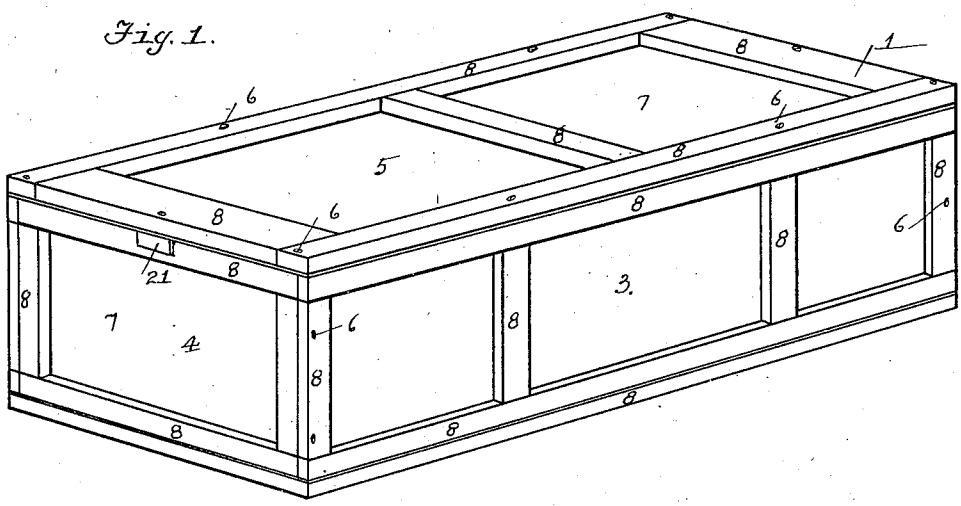
Apr. 3, 1923. 1,450,708

J. T. BATTS

PACKING AND SHIPPING CASE FOR GARMENTS

Filed Apr. 28, 1919 4 sheets-sheet 1

Fig. 1.



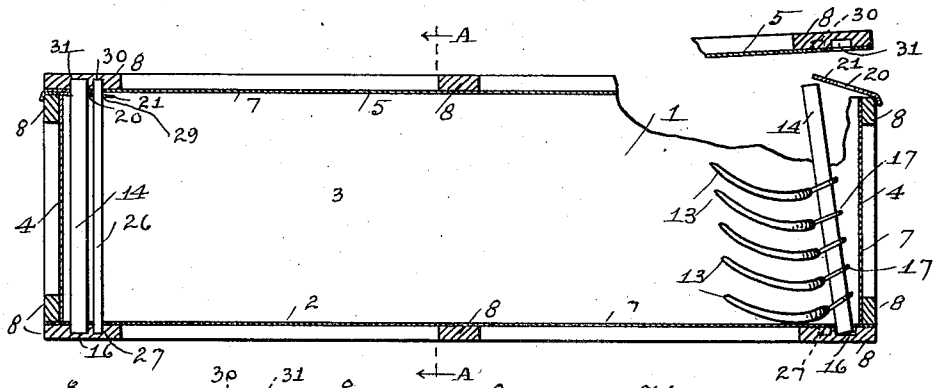


Fig. 2.

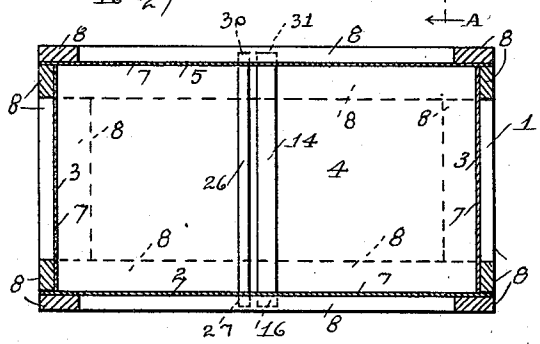


Fig. 3.

Inventor:

John Thomas Batts

By Cyrus W. Rice

his Attorney

Witness:

Geo. L. Chapel

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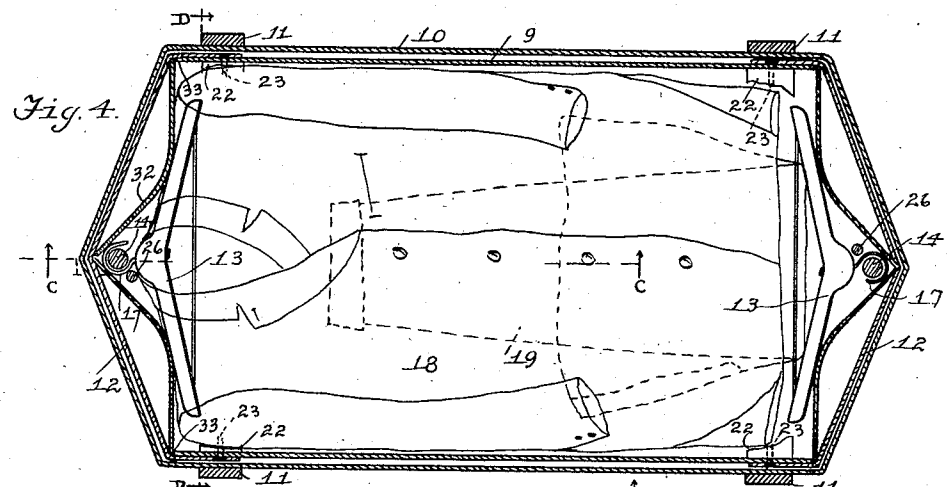
J. T. BATTS

PACKING AND SHIPPING CASE FOR GARMENTS

Filed Apr. 28, 1919 4 sheets-sheet 2

Fig. 4.



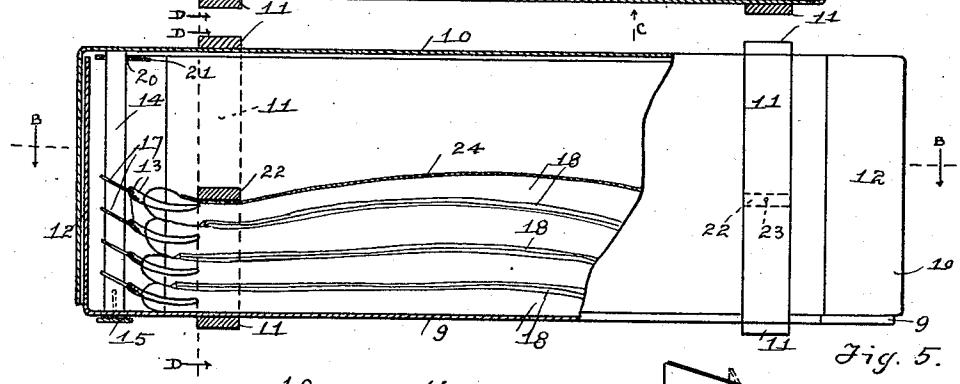


Fig. 5.

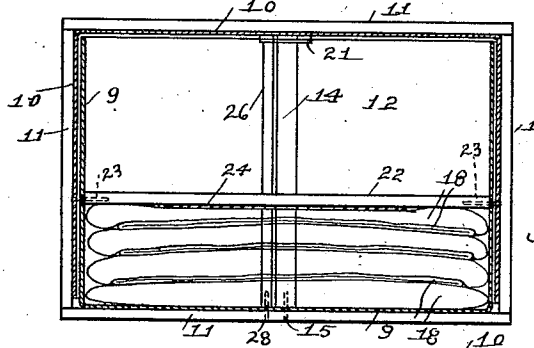


Fig. 6.

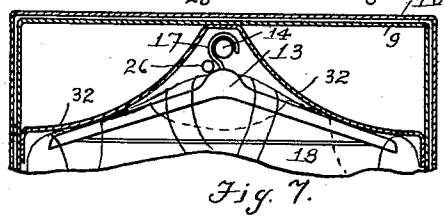


Fig. 7.

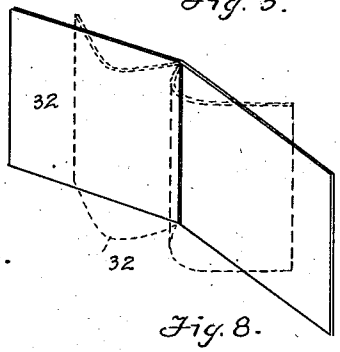


Fig. 8.

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Apr. 3, 1923. 1,450,708

J. T. BATTS

PACKING AND SHIPPING CASE FOR GARMENTS

Filed Apr. 28, 1919 4 sheets-sheet 3

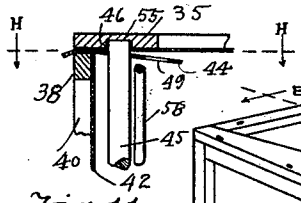


Fig. 11.

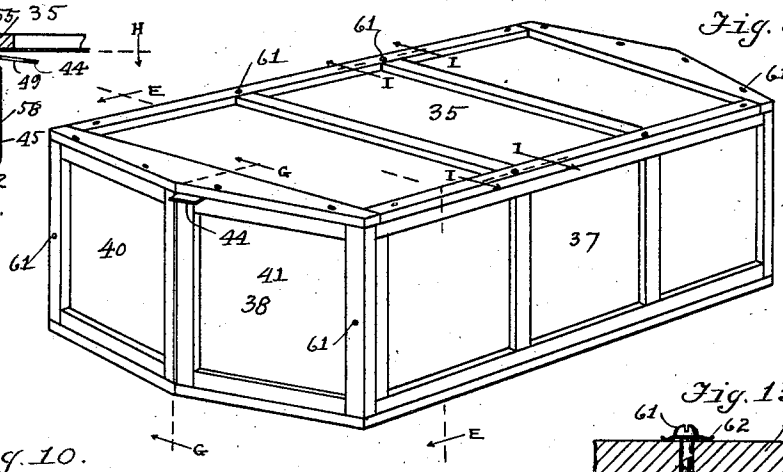
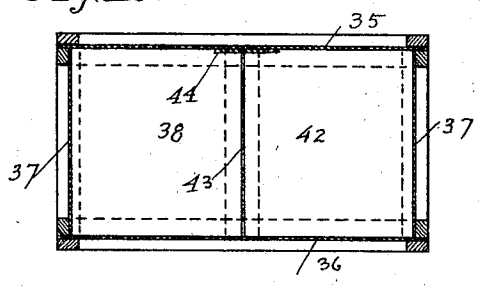


Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.



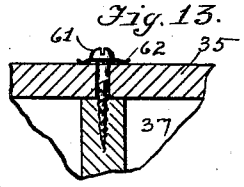


Fig. 13.

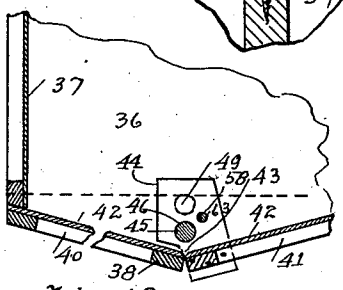


Fig. 12.

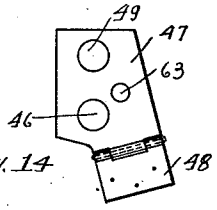


Fig. 14

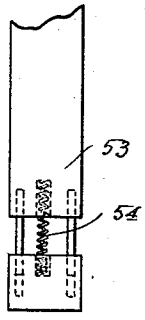


Fig. 16.

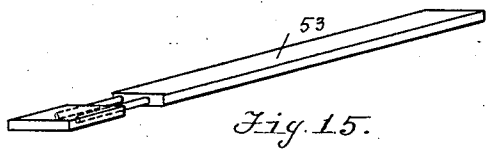


Fig. 15.

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Apr. 3, 1923. **1,450,708**

J. T. BATTS

PACKING AND SHIPPING CASE FOR GARMENTS

Filed Apr. 28, 1919 4 sheets-sheet 4

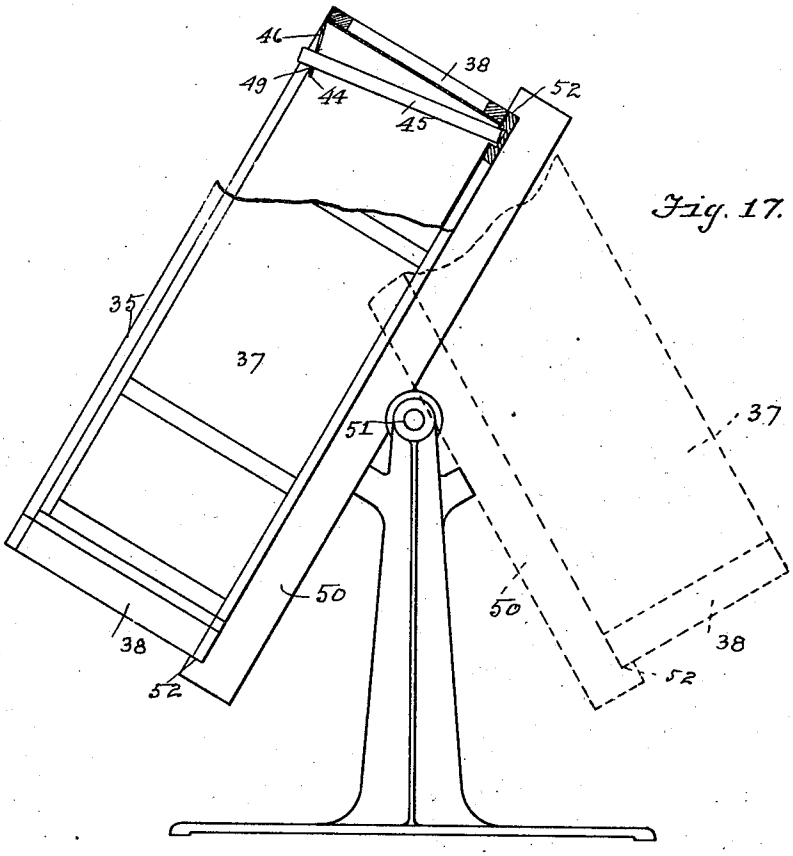

Fig. 17.

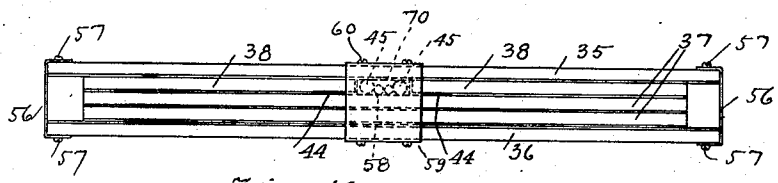

Fig. 18.

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Patented Apr. 3, 1923. 1,450,708

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN THOMAS BATTS, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

PACKING AND SHIPPING CASE FOR GARMENTS.

Application filed April 28, 1919. Serial No. 293,094.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN THOMAS BATTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Grand Rapids, in the county of Kent and State of Michigan, have invented new and useful Improvements in Packing and Shipping Cases for Garments, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to packing and shipping cases for garments; and its object is to provide such a case having means for securely holding the garments therein against movement; a further object is to provide means for supporting hangers for the garments in the case; a further object is to provide means for securing such supporting means in position; a further object is to provide means for temporarily holding such supporting means while the hangers with garments thereon are being placed on said supporting means; a further object is to provide means for properly positioning the supporting means in registration with the securing means therefor; a further object is to provide such a case having outwardly bulging end portion or portions containing means for supporting hangers for the garments in the case; a further object is to provide a "knockdown" packing and shipping case; a further object is to provide spring-held means for holding the garments on the bottom of the case; a further object is to provide such a case improved as hereinafter described; a further object is to provide an improved method of piling or packing garments.

These and any other objects hereinafter appearing are attained by, and the invention finds preferable embodiment in, the structures hereinafter particularly described and illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a packing and shipping case for garments;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal central vertical section of the same, the garment hangers and their supporting means not being sectioned;

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical section of the same taken on a plane corresponding to the line A—A of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a longitudinal horizontal section of such a case having outwardly bulging ends, taken on a plane corresponding to line B—B of Figure 5, certain parts being broken away;

Figure 5 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same taken on planes corresponding to line C—C of Figure 4, certain parts not being sectioned;

Figure 6 is a transverse vertical section of the same taken on a plane corresponding to line D—D of Figures 4 and 5;

Figure 7 is a longitudinal horizontal section of a portion of such a case illustrating means for retaining the garments between such means and the hangers;

Figure 8 is a view in perspective of similar retaining means adapted to be inserted into the case;

Figure 9 is a view in perspective of a packing and shipping case for garments showing a modified construction;

Figure 10 is a transverse vertical section of the same taken on a plane corresponding to line E—E of Figure 9;

Figure 11 is a longitudinal vertical section of a portion of the same taken on a plane corresponding to line G—G of Figure 9;

Figure 12 is a horizontal section of a portion of the same taken on a plane corresponding to line H—H of Figure 11;

Figure 13 is a vertical section of a portion of the same taken on a plane corresponding to line I—I of Figure 9;

Figure 14 is a plan view of a modified form of the positioning member for the hanger's supporting means;

Figure 15 is a view in perspective of spring-means for holding the garments on the bottom of the case;

Figure 16 is a plan view of a portion of the same;

Figure 17 is a side view of a tilting table for supporting the case while being filled; and

Figure 18 is a side view of the parts of the knockdown case secured together for shipment.

In the embodiment of the invention chosen for illustration by the drawings and for detailed description in the body of this specification, Figures 1, 2 and 3 show a packing and shipping case 1 having rectangular ends. This case is of "knockdown" construction, having a bottom 2, sides 3, ends 4 and cover 5, assembled as by screws 6, each said part having a body portion 7 preferably of suitable fibre material and strengthening ribs 8 preferably of wood.

In Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 a "telescoping" case is shown whose body 9 and telescoping cover 10 are preferably of like fibre material strengthened with wooden ribs 11; the cases in Figures 4, 5 and 6 have outwardly bulging ends 12 as shown. Both forms of cases illustrated contain adjacent each end supports for the garment hangers 13, such supports being in the form of posts 14 secured against lateral movement on the bottom of the cases, as by a pin 15 driven through the case's bottom as shown in Figure 5, or by the lower end of the posts being seated in sockets 16 in the bottoms of the cases as shown in Figures 2 and 3.

The hangers 13 have sustaining hooks 17 of common form engaging and supported by the posts 14. The garments, as the men's coats 18 and trousers 19, may be placed on the hangers and a file thereof laid in the bottom of the case, whereupon a detached post 14 (see Figure 2) is thrust downwardly through the registering hooks and its lower end is seated in the socket 16 in the case's bottom: or the post being attached to the said bottom as in Figure 5, the garments on the hangers are laid in the case, the hooks of the hangers being passed over the upper end of the post. The garments on their hangers being now in the case, the upper end of the post is moved laterally into registration with an orifice 20 in the positioning member 21 formed preferably of fibre material and hooked over or otherwise attached to the upper edge of the ends of the case's body: the member 21 is now turned downwardly causing the upper end of the post to be held in said member's orifice 20. In placing the garments in the case, they are laid on each other in such manner that the upper or collar portion of one garment 18 is toward one end of the case and the like portion of the next garment is toward the other end of the case, the posts at either end alternately supporting the hangers. When the cover is applied, the upper end of the posts 14 enter a socket 31 therein and are thus securely held in position.

It will be seen that by this method of packing, the middle and thicker portion of the file of garments bulges upwardly, as seen in Figure 5.

When the posts are held by the positioning members 21, garment-holding strips 22 may be inserted into the case transversely over the garments and adjacent and inwardly from the posts at either end of the case. These strips are pressed down on the portions of the garments crossed thereby, and are then secured in that position by suitable means, as by the screws 23 inserted from the outside of the case and passing through orifices therein and screwed into the ends of the strips. A suitable member or sheet 24 may lie on the garments and under the strips as shown in Figures 5 and 6 thus preventing the strips from creasing the garments: this member 24 being flexible however, does not press down the bulging middle portion of the file of garments, but conforms thereto.

It will be seen that by the means described and by such arrangement of the garments alternately disposed oppositely as to their top or collar portions, the garments are held by the hangers 13, posts 14 and strips 22 against movement and displacement in the case during handling and shipment, and when removed from the case will be found to be smooth and unwrinkled. The strips 22 engaging on opposite sides of the bulging middle portion of the file of garments hold the same from a tendency to move in mass toward either end of the case, thus relieving the strain of such a movement on the posts and hooks; and the outwardly bulging ends 12 of the case prevent the standing of the case on end.

In order to hold the hangers and the garments thereon evan more securely against movement or displacement in the case, I provide second posts 26 adjacent to and parallelly disposed relatively to the supporting posts 14 and adapted to engage the outer side of the hooks and hold the same closely on the posts 14 and also to engage the portion of the hangers which is adjacent the posts 14. These posts 26 may be held in position in a manner similar to that employed for securing the posts 14 against lateral movement; namely, the bottom of the posts 26 may be seated in sockets 27 as shown in Figures 2 and 3, or may be fastened by pins 28 as seen in Figure 6: and their upper ends may be positioned by means of an orifice 29 in the positioning member 21 and secured in a socket 30 in the cover of the case.

A retaining member 32 extends on opposite sides of the post 14 and engages the shoulder portions of the coat 18, such portions being held between the hanger and said member. This member may be fixed in the case as shown in Figure 7, or may be formed as shown in Figure 8 and adapted to be inserted into the case so that its ends abut against and are held by suitable keepers 33 as shown in Figure 4. This member is preferably flexible as indicated in Figure 8.

In Figures 9, 10, 11 and 12 a modified construction of a knockdown packing and shipping case is shown: This case has a top 35, bottom 36, sides 37 and outwardly bulging ends 38, each end comprising two members 40, 41, together constituting the outer portion of said end, and an inner portion 42, (preferably of fibre material) to which said members are fastened edge toward edge. This inner portion being flexible adjacent the meeting edges of the outer members, and preferably creased at 43 thereat as shown in

Figure 12, these members 40, 41 may be interrelatively positioned as shown in Figures 9 and 12 in the assembled position of the parts of the case, or in non-assembled position they may be flattened out into a plane for storage or shipment in knockdown form as indicated in Figure 18. The positioning members 44 for positioning the upper end of the hangers' supporting posts 45 against lateral movement are carried by one of the members 41 of the ends 38. These positioning members may be of flexible material so that they may be turned in parallel relation to the members 41 carrying them for shipment in the knockdown condition of the case as shown in Figure 18, or may be turned into operative position wherein their orifices 46 engage the upper end of said posts. These positioning members may however be formed (as shown in Figure 14) of two hingedly connected pieces, 47 which has the post-engaging orifice, and 48 which is fastened to the upper edge of the member 41 of the end of the case. Said positioning members may each be provided with a second orifice 49 adapted to receive the upper end of said post when it is swung inwardly as shown in Figure 17, for the purpose hereinafter explained.

In Figure 17 a table 50 tiltably mounted at 51 is shown, on which table the case may be supported and held as by the ledges 52 against endwise movement, and for the purpose of packing the case with the garments. The table with the case being tilted to the position shown in solid lines in Figure 17, and the upper ends of the hangers' supporting posts 45 being held against lateral movement by being inserted into the openings 49 of the posts' positioning members 44 or 47 at the ends of the case respectively, a garment and its hanger may be suspended by the hanger's hook on the post at the then upper end of the case; the strip 53 may now be inserted into the case over the lower part of the garment and in contact therewith, the ends of the strip being holdingly pressed against the sides of the case inside. This strip 53 may be thus spring pressed holdingly by any suitable means, as by the spring 54 tending to separate the two ends of the strip as shown in Figure 16. The table may now be tilted reversely and to the position shown in dotted lines in Figure 17, the strip 53 preventing the lower part of the garment from falling or folding over the upper part thereof in such tilting of the table. A second garment on its hanger may now be placed in the case and supported on the other hanger-supporting post, it being now the upper post in this position of the case and table. The strip may now be removed and placed over the lower part of the second garment to retain it in place for the next tilting of the table. This order being repeated until the case is filled to the desired degree, the case is removed from the table and laid down on its bottom. The positioning members 44 or 47 may now be turned up to release the upper ends of the hangers' supporting posts, whereupon said ends may be pressed apart and the positioning members turned down to engage said upper ends in the openings or sockets 46 which register with the sockets 55 in the cover or top 35 when it is applied and fastened to the body of the case. It will be seen that such pressing apart of the upper end of said posts draws the file of garments supported on one post in one direction and the file supported on the other post in the opposite direction and thus straightens out any wrinkling that may have occurred in them in the packing operation. It is evident that the hangers' supporting posts 14 tilted inwardly as is the post shown at the right-hand side of Figure 2 may be pressed apart with the same effect. Posts 58 similar to the posts 26 shown in Figures 2 and 3 may be provided, the same being adapted to be positioned in orifices 63 in the positioning members 44 or 47 and to be seated in sockets in the cover provided in this modified construction.

The top 35, bottom 36, sides 37 and ends 38 of the case being laid together side to side as shown in Figure 18 may be fastened together for storage or shipment in knockdown condition as by the bails 56 fastened as by screws 57 to the outer two of said parts. In the space 70 between the ends 38 the posts 45 and 58, etc. may be laid, and held therein by the bail strips 59 fastened on either side of the laid together parts, as by screws 60. Screws 61 with washers 62 are preferably employed to assemble the parts of the case.

It will be seen that by the method of piling and packing the garments above described, the same will lie evenly and closely together in a pile without wrinkling or crushing the collars or shoulders. Where the hanger-containing portions of the garments are all disposed in the same direction in the pile, the pile is thicker at the hangers, whereas by my method the thickness of the pile is uniform. When shipped in a case, the garments piled and packed by my improved method are in much less danger of shifting in the case, when the case is turned on end, and the weight is evenly distributed in the case. When the hangers are held in alignment in the case, as by the rods to which they are removably attached, the shifting of the garments is even more effectually prevented, as it is also by binding the pile of garments together between the oppositely disposed hangers, as described.

The invention being intended to be point-

ed out in the claims, is not to be limited to or by details of construction shown or described.

I claim:

1. In a garment packing and shipping case; a plurality of garment hangers; supports for the hangers inside the case and adjacent the ends thereof respectively, and severally adapted to removably support a plurality of said hangers, and so interrelatively positioned that the lower portion only of garments carried by the hangers supported on the support adjacent one end of the case overlie the lower portion only of garments carried by the hangers supported on the support adjacent the other end of the case; garment-holding strips removably secured to the case inside, and extending transversely over the garments therein, and positioned inwardly from and adjacent to the supports at the ends of the case respectively, and adapted to hold the garments on the bottom of the case.

2. In a garment packing and shipping case; a plurality of garment hangers; supports for the hangers inside the case and adjacent the ends thereof respectively, and severally adapted to removably support said hangers, and so interrelatively positioned that the lower portion only of garments carried by the hangers supported on the support adjacent one end of the case overlie the lower portion only of garments carried by the hangers supported on the support adjacent the other end of the case; garment-holding strips removably secured to the case inside, and extending transversely over the upper portion of the garments therein, and positioned inwardly from and adjacent to the supports at the ends of the case respectively, and adapted to hold the garments on the bottom of the case; a flexible member overlying the garments and under the strips.

3. In a garment packing and shipping case; a plurality of garment hangers; a supporting post swingably carried inside the case for removably supporting the hangers and held at one end on the bottom of the case against lateral movement; means adjacent the top of the case for holding the other end of the post in swung position.

4. In a garment packing and shipping case having a body and a removable cover provided with a socket; a plurality of garment hangers; a supporting post swingably carried inside the body for removably supporting the hangers and held at one end on the body against lateral movement, its other end being adapted to be seated and held against swinging movement in the socket in the assembled position of the body and cover.

5. In a garment packing and shipping case; a plurality of garment hangers having sustaining hooks; a supporting post inside the case for the hangers and adapted to be detachably engaged by said hooks; a second post parallelly disposed relatively to the supporting post and adapted to hold the hooks closely on the supporting post against detaching movement in a direction transverse to the posts.

6. In a garment packing and shipping case having ends, at least one of which is outwardly bulging; a plurality of garment hangers; supports for the hangers inside the case and adjacent the ends thereof respectively, and severally adapted to removably support a plurality of said hangers, and so interrelatively positioned that the lower portion only of garments carried by the hangers supported on the support adjacent one end of the case overlie the lower portion only of garments carried by the hangers supported on the support adjacent the other end of the case.

7. In a garment packing and shipping case; a plurality of garment hangers; a supporting post inside the case for removably supporting the hangers and held against lateral movement at one end on the bottom of the case; means adjacent the top of the case for positioning the other end of the supporting post in a plurality of lateral positions.

8. A garment packing and shipping case having a detachable end comprising flexibly connected members; a plurality of garment hangers; a supporting post inside the case for removably supporting the hangers and held against lateral movement at one end on the bottom of the case; means adjacent the top of said detachable end for positioning the other end of the supporting post laterally and being turnable to different positions inside the case and being carried by one of said members of said detachable end.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand at Grand Rapids, Michigan, this 26th day of April, 1919.

JOHN THOMAS BATTS.