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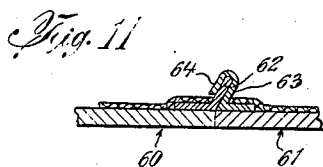
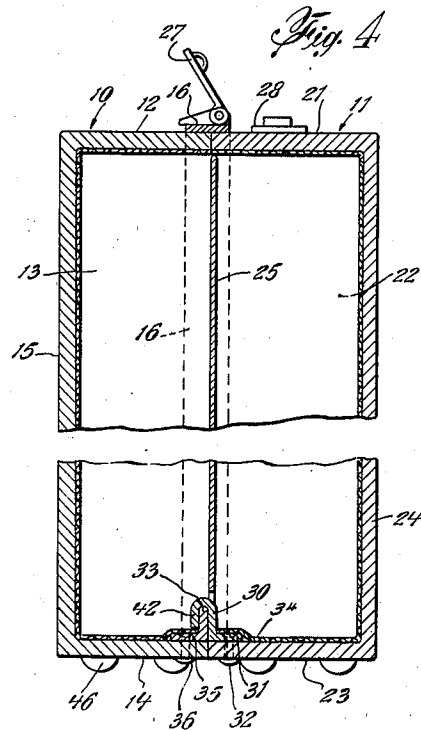
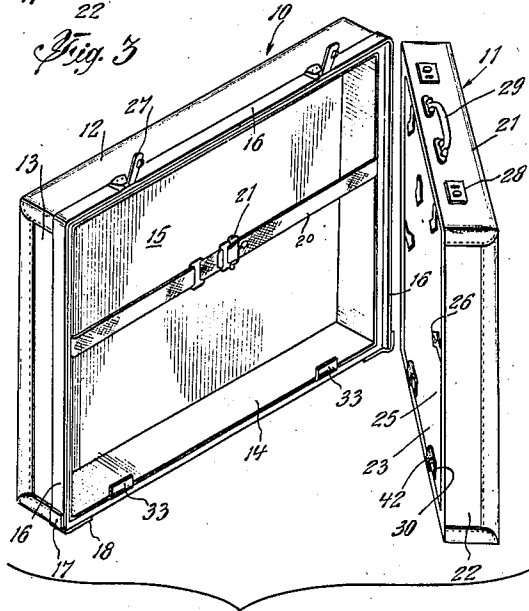
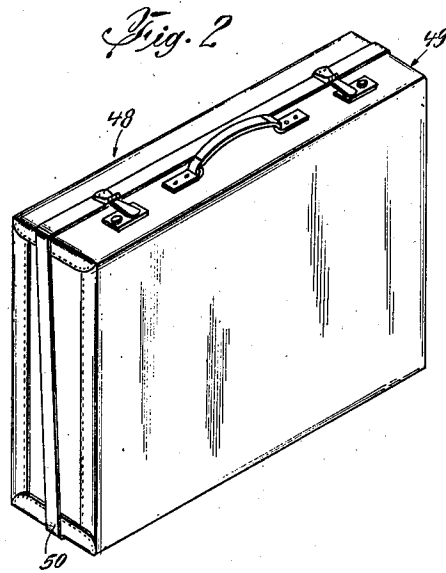
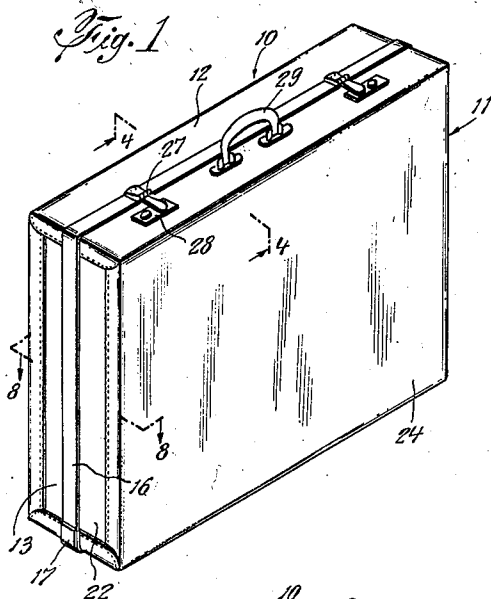
W. H. BRACKEN

2,339,907

ARTICLE OF LUGGAGE

Filed April 29, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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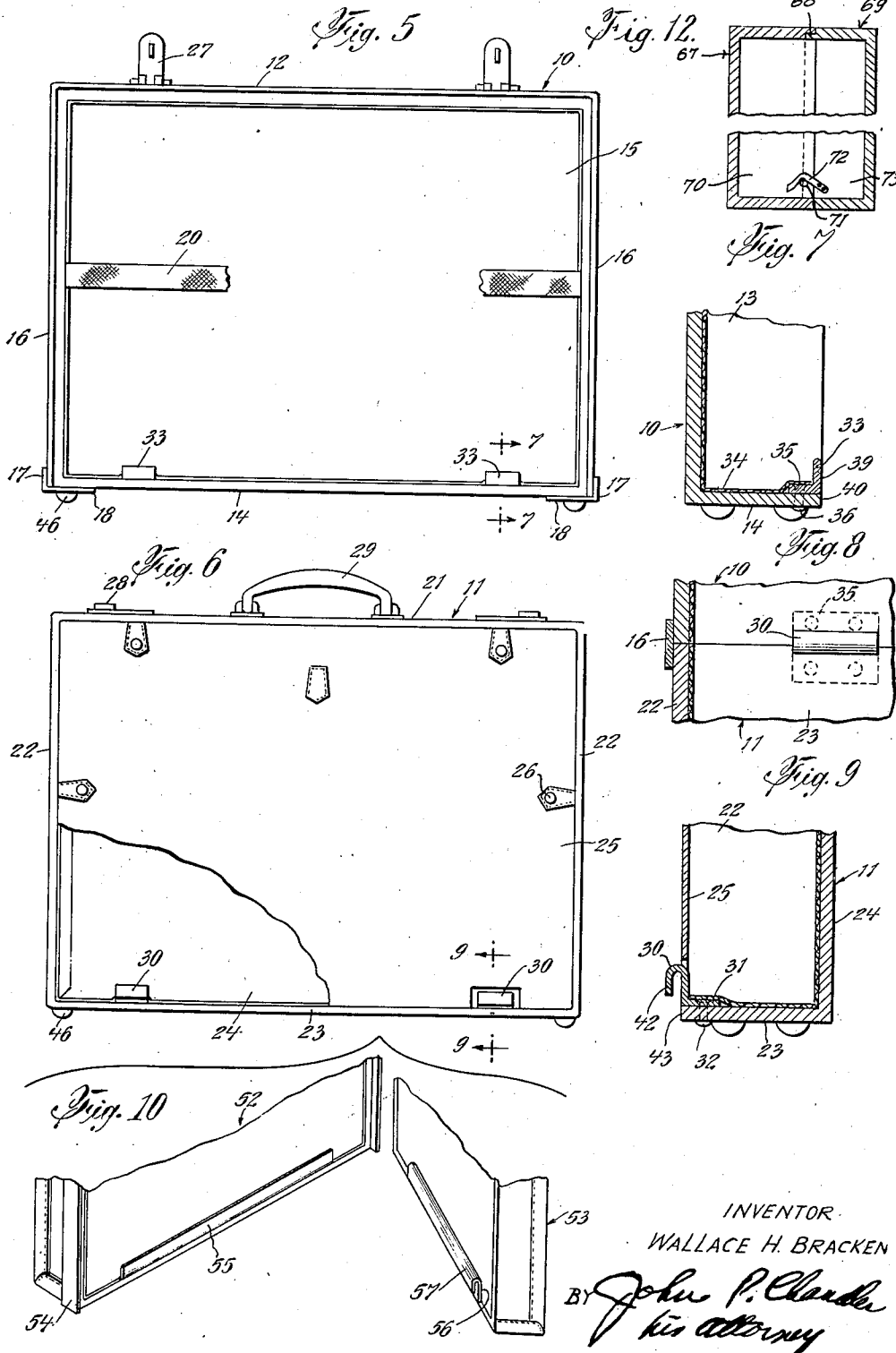
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,339,907

ARTICLE OF LUGGAGE

Wallace H. Bracken, Rye, N. Y.

Application April 29, 1942, Serial No. 440,937

1 Claim. (Cl. 190—41)

This invention relates to a new and improved article of luggage, and relates somewhat more particularly to a novel suitcase formed in two completely disengageable sections. The present application constitutes in part a continuation of my co-pending application Serial No. 400,994, for "Wardrobe cases," filed July 3, 1941, issued July 14, 1942, as Patent No. 2,290,090.

The principal object of the present invention is the provision of an article of luggage formed in a plurality of complementary, interfitting sections which may be quickly assembled when the case is to be carried, and which, with equal facility and speed, may be disassembled and the two sections laid open, face upwards, for packing or unpacking.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide a novel article of luggage formed in a plurality of complementary box-like sections, and wherein hinges are completely eliminated. This singular advantage will be appreciated all the more when it is considered how frequently the cover of the usual hinged case falls shut when it is desired to have it stay open. Also, by eliminating hinges or hinge-like elements, the cost of the case is materially reduced without, however, reducing, but, on the contrary, increasing the utility of the case.

A further object of the invention is to provide a suitcase which is substantially dust-proof and water-proof, a novel arrangement of valences and unique internal, interlocking elements being provided to effect this result.

Yet another object of the invention is the provision of a wardrobe case having a suit-carrying section and a clothing accessory-carrying section which may be completely disengaged from each other, the handle for the bag being preferably, though not necessarily, associated with the latter section in order that this section may be independently carried, as from a Pullman berth to the washroom without the necessity and inconvenience of carrying the entire wardrobe case.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a case of the character described wherein the two sections cooperate with each other to very considerably strengthen the assembled structure.

A further important object of the present invention is to provide a hingeless traveling case wherein more or less conventional locking elements are provided at the upper end thereof for retaining the two elements in assembled relationship, and unique and novel internal, inter-

locking or fastening means are provided at the lower end of the case. The arrangement is such, however, that when the upper locking elements are disengaged and the upper meeting portions of the sections are moved apart even a very slight distance, the lower fastening means may be instantly released, thus distinguishing the case from the devices of the art wherein it is necessary to move one section through a very substantial arc before one section may be disengaged from the other.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing a slight modification in the form of the outer casing.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the two sections forming the preferred embodiment, the two sections being shown in disassembled relationship.

Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a front elevation of the body section of the preferred embodiment.

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of the cover section of such embodiment.

Fig. 7 is a broken vertical section taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 8 is a broken horizontal section taken on line 8—8 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 9 is a broken vertical section taken on line 9—9 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 10 is a broken exploded view of a modified form of the invention.

Fig. 11 is a broken vertical section taken through a modified form of interlocking retaining element.

Figure 12 shows a broken transverse section taken through another modified form of the invention.

The preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a plurality of interfitting sections including a body section 10 and a cover section 11. Both of these sections are of substantially the same size and shape, and they are referred to as body section and cover section, respectively, merely for convenience in the description, although both may properly be considered body sections.

Section 10 is generally rectangular in shape and is provided with a top wall 12, end wall 13, a bottom wall 14, and a side wall 15 extending the full length of the case. A continuous valence strip 16 extends from the lower edge of one end wall 13 up to top wall 12, across the full length thereof, and down on the opposite end wall 13, and is

firmly secured to, and extends beyond, the inner marginal edges of said walls. If desired, this valence strip could be formed in a plurality of sections, although it is preferred to provide one continuous strip. This valence strip may be of wood, metal, plastic, or other suitable material. The lower edges of the valence strip 16 may be further secured to each end wall 13 of the case by means of an angle member having a vertical portion 17 engaging each lower terminal of the valence strip, and a horizontal portion 18 which is suitably secured to the lower surface of lower wall 14. If desired, a plurality of hangers (not shown) may be positioned within the area formed by section 10, and such hangers may be retained in upright position, when viewed as in Fig. 3, by means of complemental strap members 20 having detachable fastening elements 21 at their free ends.

Section 11 is similarly shaped, and is preferably of substantially the same size as section 10. This section also includes an upper wall 21, end walls 22, bottom wall 23, and side wall 24. If desired, section 11 may have a partition or closure member 25 which may have a hinged connection at its lower end with lower wall 23, and may be maintained in such closed position by means of short straps having snap fasteners 26. Upper walls 12 and 21 have complemental locking elements 27 and 28, respectively, and a handle structure 29 may be secured to the upper surface of wall 21.

The internal retaining elements comprise one or more vertical lugs 33 which may be formed as angle members having base portions 35 which are secured to lower wall 14 of section 10 by means of rivets or the like 36. The complemental fastening element mounted on the upper surface of lower wall 23 of section 11 may comprise a substantially hook-shaped element 30, also having a base portion 31 which is secured to such lower wall 23 by means of rivets 32.

Sections 10 and 11 may be internally lined, as shown at 34, such lining covering the upper surfaces of base portions 35 and 31, as shown particularly in Figs. 7 and 9. It will be noted from an examination of Fig. 7 that the outer vertical edge 39 of lug 33 is substantially flush with the outer edge 40 of bottom wall 14. It will further be noted in Fig. 9 that hook portion 42 of member 30 extends slightly beyond the inner edge 43 of bottom wall 23 in section 11.

When the case is to be assembled, the lower end of section 11 is moved to a position where hook portions 42 are adjacent to the upper edge of lug 33, and in this position the upper end of section 11 may be slightly spaced from the upper end of section 10. Section 11 is now moved downwardly, thus causing lug 33 to be received in the recess formed by hook portion 42. When the upper edge of lug 33 has become fully seated in the recess, as shown in Fig. 4, the upper edge of section 11 may be moved inwardly to a point wherein the respective inner edges of upper walls 12 and 21 are in meeting engagement, as shown in Fig. 4, and the case is now ready to be finally secured in assembled relationship by manipulation of locking elements 27.

When in this position of Fig. 4, cover section 11 is supported along three marginal edges thereof, to wit, its two end walls and upper wall, by the continuous valence strip 16. Downward movement of section 11 relative to section 10 is, of course, effectively prevented by the internal locking members 33 and 30, and accordingly the

two sections of the case are rigidly supported relative to each other. The bottom walls of the case may further have a plurality of semi-circular supporting elements or rivets 45 which prevent the lower surface of the case from being defaced. Sections 10 and 11 may be constructed in the usual manner with a rigid, box-like structure formed of plywood or the like, and may have a leather or fabric covering, or may be otherwise formed, all as is well known in the art.

The structure of Fig. 2 differs from that shown in Figs. 1 to 9 only in that the complemental sections 48 and 49 have diagonally disposed inner vertical edges, and in this instance the valence strip 50 is non-parallel with the side walls of the case. This also provides a highly rigid structure.

In the modified structure shown in Fig. 10, sections 52 and 53 are formed in the usual manner, section 52 having the valence strip 54 extending around three sides thereof. In this instance, however, only a single lug 55 is provided, such lug extending the major portion of the length of the case. The complemental fastening element comprises an elongated member 56 having an elongated hook portion 57. It will be appreciated that this modified structure effectively seals the full meeting, lower marginal edges of the two sections, and prevents any possibility of dust or water entering the case.

In the structure shown in Fig. 11, sections 60 and 61 are again formed as in the preferred embodiment, but in this case lug 62 is not vertical, as in the preferred embodiment, but is rather outwardly diagonally disposed, and member 63 with portion 64 is similarly shaped. This particular construction enables the two sections to be readily disengaged from each other.

In Fig. 12, section 69 is provided with an internal flange 68 along the upper wall and the opposed end walls, such flange engaging the marginal edges of the corresponding walls on section 67. In this instance, each end wall 70 of section 67 is provided with a lug or pin 71 adjacent to its lower inner edge, such pin being engaged by means of a hook-shaped element 72 suitably secured to each end wall 73 of section 69. In this instance, the handle member (not shown) may be secured to either or both of the upper walls of the case.

The herein described embodiments of the invention which are specifically illustrated in the drawing are generally illustrative of the invention, but are not to be taken in any limiting sense since they constitute only a few of the many possible embodiments of the invention, the essential feature of which is the provision of a case having a pair of interfitting sections of substantially the same size and shape with cooperating valences or flanges around a number of the sides of the case, and with cooperating elements for securing the lower edges of the case together, such elements comprising a lug or pin secured at, or adjacent to, the lower wall of the case, and a hook-shaped element similarly positioned in the other section of the case.

What I claim is:

A traveling case comprising a generally rectangular structure, a handle secured to the upper wall of said case, the case being formed in two complemental, vertical sections of substantially the same size and shape and which are completely disengageable from each other, the inner marginal edges of the two sections which meet in surface engagement when the case is assem-

bled being of substantially identical contour, the first of said sections being provided with a valence strip extending along the outer surface of such inner marginal edges of the top and opposed end walls of said section which encloses the adjacent marginal edges of the second section when the case is in assembled relation, a single elongated, substantially vertical lug extending upwardly from the inner marginal edge of the lower wall of the first section, such lug extending the greater portion of the length of said lower wall, a single elongated, inverted U shaped element secured to the inner marginal edge of the lower wall of the second section which receives the vertical

lug, said lug and said U shaped element together forming a separable hinge connection disposed in a plane defined by the marginal edges of said sections which intersects said valence strip for
5 securing the lower portions of the case in closed relation and for excluding foreign matter from the interior of the case, the position of said hinge connection relative to said plane permitting the upper marginal edge of the second section to
10 swing beneath said valence, and complementary fastening means comprising locks for securing the upper portions of the case in closed relation.

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