

Oct. 8, 1935.

A. H. SHORT
COLLAPSIBLE BAG

2,016,520

Filed April 20, 1934

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

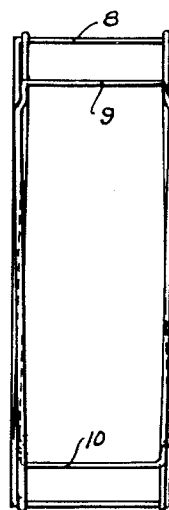
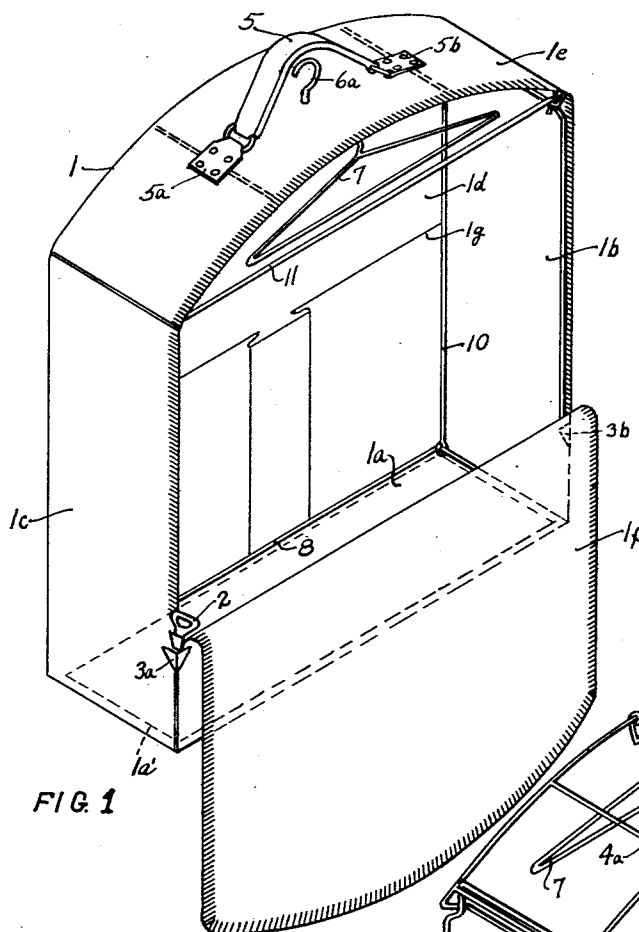
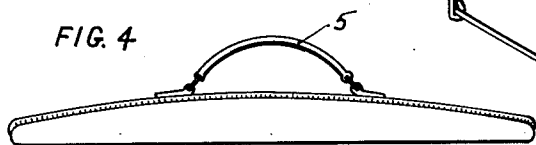
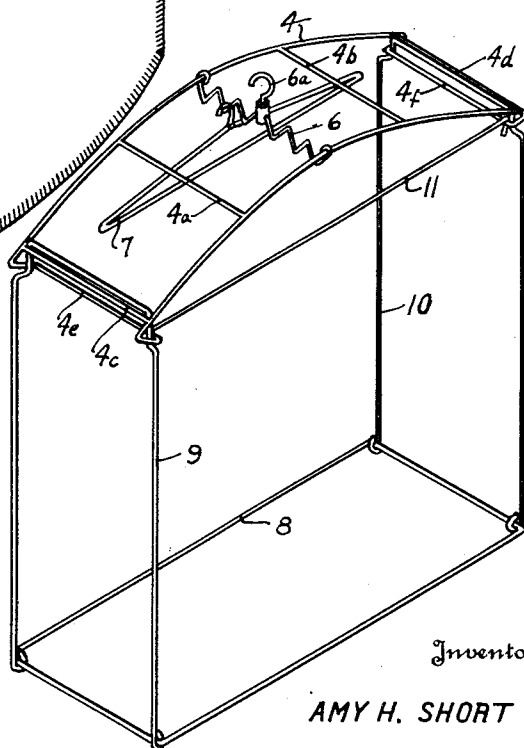


FIG. 2



Inventor

AMY H. SHORT

BY *Ralph B. Stewart*

Attorney

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2

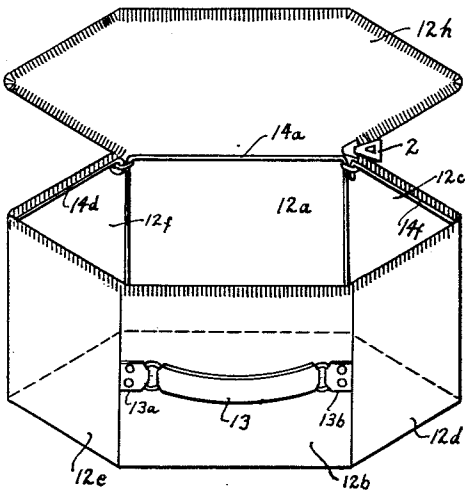


FIG. 5

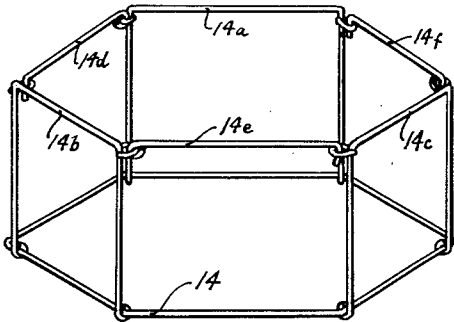


FIG. 6

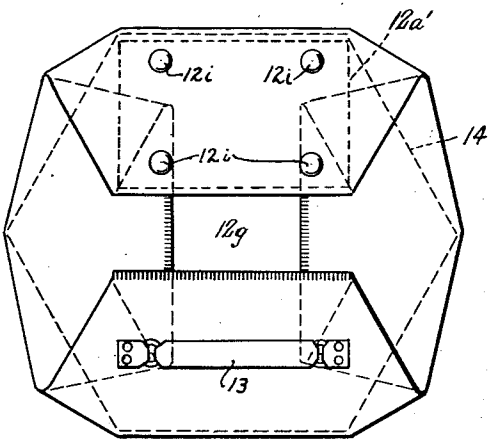


FIG. 7

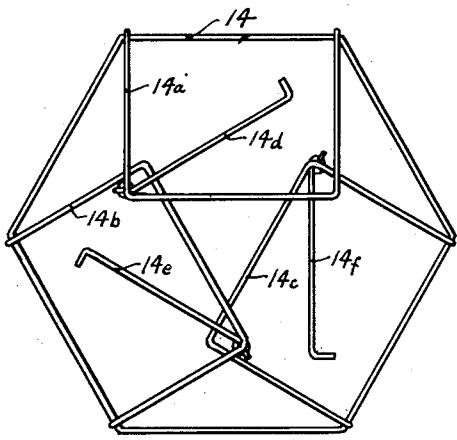


FIG. 8

Inventor

AMY H. SHORT

Ralph B. Stewart

Attorney

Oct. 8, 1935.

A. H. SHORT

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

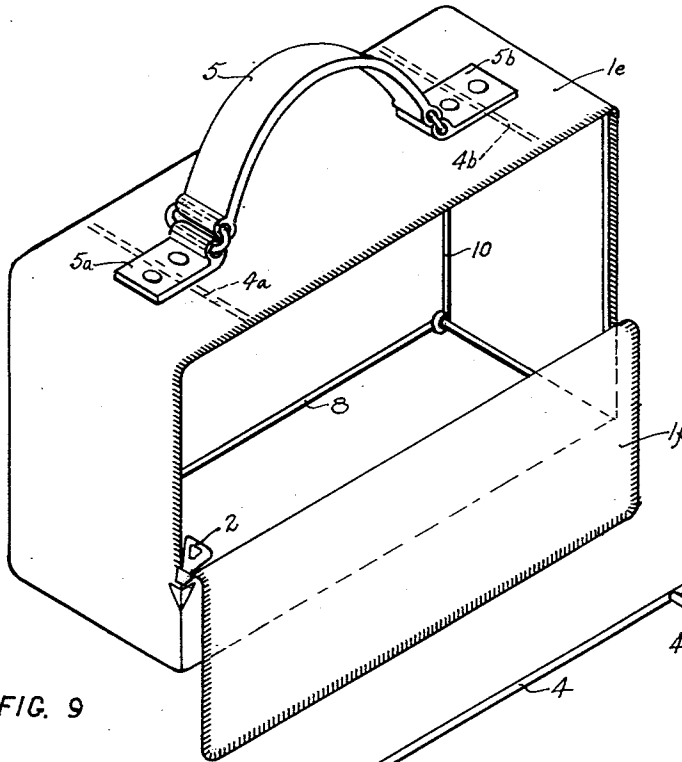


FIG. 9

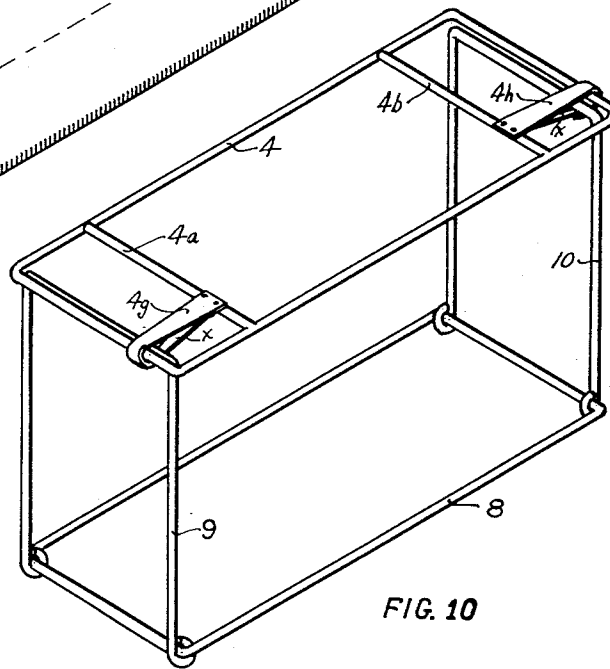


FIG. 10

Inventor

AMY H. SHORT

By

Ralph B. Stewart

Attorney

43

Patented Oct. 8, 1935

2,016,520

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,016,520

COLLAPSIBLE BAG

Amy H. Short, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Application April 20, 1934, Serial No. 721,595

16 Claims. (Cl. 190—43)

My invention relates to handbags or luggage carriers.

An object of the invention is to devise a bag having a flexible or pliant casing and a frame for supporting the casing and rendering the bag self-sustaining.

A further object is to provide a collapsible frame so the bag may be folded into a small, compact bundle convenient for carrying, or for packing in other luggage carriers, or for storage.

Another object is to devise a bag of the type described in which the collapsible frame is readily removable from the flexible casing.

A further object is to devise a collapsible bag of light construction and one which is easily collapsed or extended.

Still another object is to devise a bag of the type described in which the removable collapsible frame, standing alone, is not self-sustaining, but when associated with the flexible casing produces a self-sustaining structure.

Three different modifications of my invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a wardrobe type of bag in extended position;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the supporting framework for the bag shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows the folded position of the collapsible frame of Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows the bag of Figure 1 in collapsed or folded position;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a second form of bag;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the supporting framework for the bag of Figure 5;

Figure 7 shows the bag of Figure 5 in collapsed position;

Figure 8 shows the framework of Fig. 6 in collapsed position;

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a third form of bag; and

Figure 10 illustrates the supporting framework for the bag of Figure 9.

A wardrobe type of handbag is illustrated in Figures 1 to 4. In this construction, the outer casing is formed of any suitable flexible or pliant material, such as leather, artificial leather, canvas, rubberized cloth or the like, and comprises a bottom wall 1a, two side walls 1b and 1c, a back wall 1d, an arched top 1e and a front wall 1f. The front wall 1f is in the form of a flap sewed along its bottom edge to the front edge of the bottom wall and is secured to the front edges of side walls 1b—1c and the top 1e by a zipper connection of well known construction. The zipper pull-tab is indicated at 2. The bottom portion of the front wall 1f is sewed to the front edges of the side walls 1b—1c for a short distance from the bottom of the bag, and suitable rein-

forcing tabs 3a and 3b are provided at the point where the zipper connection begins and ends to prevent the flap from ripping away from the side walls. The bottom wall 1a is formed of two sheets of flexible material between which is arranged a stiffening or reinforcing board 1a' which may be of stiff cardboard, sheet metal, wire frame, or other suitable material. The arched top wall 1e is secured to and reinforced by a wire frame, the details of which are clearly shown in Figure 2. This frame comprises an arched rectangular frame 4, provided with transverse bars 4a and 4b to which a flexible handle 5 is secured in any suitable manner and by which the bag is supported while being carried. One method of attaching the handle to the bars 4a and 4b is by loop-tabs 5a and 5b passing through rings at each end of the handle and riveted on each side of the bars 4a and 4b to reinforcing pieces placed over the bars on the inside of the bag. A stiff wire 6 bent in zigzag form is secured to the frame 4 at the center of the arched portion and serves as a bar for supporting a plurality of coat or garment hangers 7. A supporting hook 6a is pivotally secured to the bar 6 at the center and projects through the top wall 1e for supporting the entire bag and its contents upon a suitable fixed support. The hook 6a may be folded flat against the top wall 1e when the bag is collapsed. A suitable pocket construction 1g is provided on the back wall as shown in Figure 1.

Arranged within the bag is a collapsible frame for rendering the bag self-sustaining and holding the reinforced top wall in spaced relation with the bottom wall. This collapsible frame comprises a rectangular base frame 8, which may be formed of stiff wire and is substantially co-extensive with the bottom wall 1a, and two U-shaped side or sub-frames 9 and 10 hinged to opposite ends of base frame 8 as shown. The side frames are hinged to frame 8 by simply looping the ends of the U-frames around the end portions of frame 8. Rectangular frames 8, 9 and 10 are of substantially the same width as the top frame 4, but side frames 9 and 10 are reduced in width at their upper ends to permit the ends to be inserted between the side members of frame 4 in the manner shown in Figure 2, the bent-back portions of the side members of frame 4 resting upon the shoulders formed at the upper ends of frames 9 and 10. Transverse bars 4c and 4d are arranged on frame 4 so that they engage the outside upper ends of frames 9 and 10 respectively. The arrangement is such that the end portions 4e and 4f of the frame 4 engage the inside of the reduced end portions of frames 9 and 10 respectively, and, in cooperation with transverse bars 4c and 4d, provide sockets for receiving and bracing the reduced ends of frames 9 and 10. The bent-back ends of frame 4 form 60

hook elements which serve to prevent side frames 9 and 10 from folding down upon base frame 8, and for this purpose it is not necessary that the reduced end portions of the side frames extend entirely up to transverse bars 4c and 4d. The entire frame-work of the bag is shown assembled in Figure 2, and part of the framework may be seen in association with the bag in Figure 1. A stiff wire cross-bar 11 is hooked over the end portions 4e and 4f of the top frame 4 and serves to maintain the frame 4 in the bowed or arched position. As heretofore explained, the arched frame 4 is secured to the top wall 1e in any suitable manner and serves to reinforce the top wall and provide suitable anchor points for the handle 5.

The stiff bar 11 may be used to support the lower ends of long garments such as dresses. In packing the bag, it is hung upon a suitable hook or support by either handle 5 or hook 6a so that dresses on coat-hangers 7 may hang down full length outside of the bag. Then the bar 11 is removed from the bag, passed behind the dress about one-third way from the bottom, and then brought up and hooked over the bars 4e and 4f, the lower portions of the dresses being folded over and supported by the bar 11.

In order to collapse the bag, the cross-bar 11 is unhooked from the frame 4 and placed in the bottom of the bag. The coat hangers 7 are also removed from the bar 6 and stored in the bottom of the bag. The ends of side frames 9 and 10 are then disengaged from their sockets in the frame 4 and are folded flat against the bottom frame 8 in the manner illustrated in Figure 3. The bag may now be rolled into a compact bundle by folding the front flap 1f inside of the bag and then rolling the bag up by folding the bottom 1a against the back 1d. Continued rolling of the bottom wall will wind the flexible casing around the stiffened bottom wall until the bottom wall comes into juxtaposition with the top wall and the folded bag assumes the form indicated in Figure 4, which gives some idea of the relative size of the folded bag as compared with the bag extended as shown in Figure 1. It will be understood that when the cross-bar 11 is removed the top frame 4 may be flexed from the arched position into a substantially flat position, and this permits the bag to be folded and stored in a very small space.

While the flexible casing engages the collapsible frame sufficiently closely to render the bag self-sustaining, there is sufficient play or give between the casing and frame to permit the frame members to be disengaged and collapsed.

In Figures 5 to 8 I have illustrated the details of construction of a collapsible bag especially designed as a hat bag. In this construction the flexible bag casing has a generally hexagonal shape and is formed of a bottom wall 12a, top wall 12b, four side walls 12c, 12d, 12e and 12f, back wall 12g and a front wall 12h formed as a flexible flap secured to the front edge of the bottom wall 12a. A zipper connection is provided to secure the edges of the flap 12h to the side and top walls of the casing. The bottom wall 12a is formed of two sheets of flexible material between which is arranged a suitable reinforcing board 12a' such as stiff cardboard, sheet metal or the like. The stiffening board may be secured in place by rivets 12i passing through from the bottom and being braded to the board, the braded ends being covered by the inside sheet of the bottom wall. The enlarged heads of the rivets form

nubs for supporting the bag when resting on the bottom wall. The top wall 12b is likewise preferably formed of two sheets of flexible material with a reinforcing board or frame arranged between these sheets to provide a suitable base for securing the handle 13 to the bag. The handle 13 is secured to the stiffened top wall in any suitable manner as by loops 13a and 13b passing through rings at the ends of the handle and being riveted or otherwise secured to the reinforcing board or frame. The construction just described renders bottom wall 12a and top wall 12b substantially rigid throughout their entire area, while the side walls and the front and back walls are flexible and incapable of self-support.

Arranged within the flexible casing is a collapsible wire framework provided to render the bag self-sustaining so that it may be handled with the same convenience as a bag of rigid construction. The arrangement of this framework in the extended position is illustrated in Figure 6, and Figure 8 shows the framework in collapsed position. The supporting framework comprises a hexagonal wire base frame 14 to alternate sides of which are hinged three rectangular wire sub-frames 14a, 14b and 14c. A stiff wire bar 14d is hinged at one end to a wire loop secured to one corner of the frame 14a, and the other end of the bar 14d is formed as a hook to engage a wire loop formed at the adjacent corner of the frame 14b. Similar bar hooks 14e and 14f are arranged to connect adjacent corners of frames 14b—14c and 14c—14a as shown in Figure 6. This construction presents a fairly rigid framework which maintains the flexible bag casing in extended position without interference with the use of the bag. When it is desired to collapse the bag, bar hooks 14d, 14e and 14f are unhooked, and the rectangular frames 14a, 14b and 14c are folded down into the plane of the hexagonal base frame 14 as shown in Figure 8. The front wall or flap 12h is folded into the bag, and side walls 12c, 12d, 12e and 12f are folded into the bag on top of the flap 12h. The reinforced bottom and top walls 12a and 12b are next folded inward, and the general arrangement of the folded bag is as shown in Figure 7, thus presenting a substantially flat bundle slightly larger than the base frame 14.

In the construction shown in Figures 5 to 8, the supporting collapsible frame is formed entirely separate from the flexible casing and may be readily removed therefrom, but it will be understood that one of the hinged rectangular sub-frames 14a, 14b, 14c or 14d, may form the reinforcing construction for either the bottom wall 12a or the top wall 12b. It will be noted that the hooks formed at the ends of bars 14d, 14e and 14f are arranged so that the front wall when closed will prevent the bars from becoming unhooked.

A third form of my invention is illustrated in Figures 9 and 10. This bag has the same general construction as the bag illustrated in Figures 1 to 4, and like reference numerals will be used to indicate like parts, however, Figures 9 and 10 are on a larger scale than Figures 1 to 4. As in Figure 1, the flexible casing is formed in a box-like shape but instead of having an arched top, the top wall 1e is flat. Also, the reinforcing frame 4 for this construction is flat instead of being arched, and the end portions are not turned back. The collapsible framework 8—9—10 has the same general construction as in Figure 2, but the frames 9 and 10 do not have reduced end portions. The arrangement for retaining the side frames 9 and 10 in extended position com-

prises hook elements 4g and 4h secured to transverse bars 4a and 4b respectively and passing over the ends of the frame 4 and arranged to receive the outer ends of the frames 9 and 10, as shown in Figure 10. Each hook is provided with a spring keeper x to prevent the frames 9 and 10 from becoming unhooked.

The general construction of the bag shown in Figures 9 and 10 is believed to be clear from the drawings, and from the construction of Figure 1. It will be understood that the stiffening frame 4 is secured to the top wall 1e in any suitable manner, and the handle 5 is anchored to the transverse bars 4a and 4b by the same type of construction as employed in Figure 1, or any other suitable construction.

When the bag is to be collapsed, the side frames 9 and 10 are unhooked from the hooks 4g and 4h and are folded flat against the bottom wall of the bag. The flap 1f is then folded inside of the bag, and by rolling the stiffened bottom 1a one-half turn, it will come in juxtaposition with the top 1e, thus forming a small convenient bundle for storing or carrying the bag when not in use.

It is to be noted that the principal function of the collapsible frames for the three forms of bags herein shown and described is to maintain the flexible casing in extended position for convenience in packing and unpacking the bag, and very little of the weight of the contents of the bag is supported or carried by the frame, but substantially the entire weight is carried by the flexible casing. It will be understood that, if desired, the removable part of the collapsible framework may be taken out of the bag, and the utility of the bag will not be substantially impaired, since it may then be used as a flexible type of bag.

In the appended claims the term "substantially rigid" is intended to cover rigid as well as semi-rigid constructions which might be flexed or bent to a limited degree. In other words, the term is to include any construction which may be flexed, is self-supporting, and will return to its original shape if not flexed beyond its elastic limit.

What I claim is:

1. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom, front, back and side walls, means secured to each of said top and bottom walls for rendering said walls substantially rigid, and a removable, collapsible framework arranged within said casing for holding said top and bottom walls in spaced relation and for maintaining said bag in extended position.

2. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom, front, back and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall, a handle secured to said top wall, and a removable, collapsible framework arranged within said flexible casing comprising a wire frame of polygonal shape substantially co-extensive with one wall of said casing, and a plurality of rectangular frame members hinged to the sides of said polygon frame and arranged to lie substantially co-extensive with a plurality of walls of said casing in one position, and to lie substantially in the plane of said polygonal frame when collapsed.

3. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom, front, back and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall, a handle secured to said top wall, and a removable, collapsible framework arranged

within said flexible casing comprising a rectangular wire frame substantially co-extensive with the bottom wall of said casing, a rectangular wire frame hinged to each end of said bottom wire frame and arranged substantially co-extensive with the side walls of said casing in the extended position and adapted when collapsed to lie substantially in the plane of said bottom frame, and said reinforcing means embodying means for holding said hinged frames in spaced relation when in extended position.

4. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of a flexible material and having top, bottom, front, back and side walls, said front wall being formed as a flap secured to the bottom wall and having zipper hooks for securing the edge of said flap to the side and top walls to completely close said casing, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall, a handle secured to said top wall, and a removable collapsible framework arranged within said casing comprising a base frame substantially co-extensive with one wall of said casing, and a plurality of sub-frames hinged to said base frame and arranged co-extensive with a plurality of walls in said casing when in an extended position, and adapted to lie substantially in the plane of said base frame when in folded position, and means for maintaining said hinged frames in extended position.

5. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a wire frame secured thereto, two spaced transverse bars secured to said reinforcing frame, a handle anchored to said transverse bars, and a collapsible wire framework arranged within said casing and arranged to support said reinforcing frame to render said bag self-sustaining.

6. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a flexible outer casing formed of two spaced hexagonal walls connected by six rectangular walls, and a collapsible framework arranged within said casing for rendering the same self-supporting, said framework comprising a hexagonal base frame substantially co-extensive with one of said hexagonal walls, and three rectangular sub-frames hinged to alternate sides of said hexagonal frame and arranged when in extended position to lie co-extensive with three of said rectangular walls and to lie substantially in the plane of said base frame when collapsed, and spacer bars connecting adjacent outer corners of adjacent sub-frames for maintaining said framework in extended position.

7. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a flexible outer casing formed of two spaced hexagonal walls connected by six rectangular walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid one of said rectangular walls, a handle secured to said reinforced rectangular wall, and a collapsible framework arranged within said casing for rendering the same self-supporting, said framework comprising a hexagonal base frame substantially co-extensive with one of said hexagonal walls, and three rectangular sub-frames hinged to alternate sides of said hexagonal frame and arranged when in extended position to lie co-extensive with three of said rectangular walls and to lie substantially in the plane of said base frame when collapsed, and spacer bars connecting adjacent outer corners of adjacent sub-frames for maintaining said framework in extended position, one of said hexagonal

walls being formed as a flap secured to one of said rectangular walls, and a zipper connection for connecting said flap to the remaining rectangular walls to completely close said bag.

8. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a wire frame secured thereto, two spaced transverse bars secured to said reinforcing frame, a handle anchored to said transverse bars, and a collapsible wire framework arranged within said casing for supporting the top wall in spaced relation with the bottom wall, said framework comprising a base frame substantially co-extensive with the bottom wall of said casing and two sub-frames hinged to said base frame and arranged when in extended position to be substantially coextensive with opposite side walls of said casing, and means embodied in said top wall reinforcing means for maintaining said sub-frames in extended position.

9. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said bottom wall, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a wire frame secured thereto, two spaced transverse bars secured to said reinforcing frame, a handle anchored to said transverse bars, and a removable collapsible wire framework arranged within said casing for supporting the top wall in spaced relation with the bottom wall, said framework comprising a base frame substantially co-extensive with the bottom wall of said casing and two sub-frames hinged to said base frame and arranged when in extended position to be substantially coextensive with opposite side walls of said casing, and means embodied in the reinforcing means of said top wall construction for maintaining said sub-frames in extended position.

10. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a rectangular wire frame secured thereto, supporting means for said bag secured to said wire frame, a collapsible framework arranged within said casing for supporting the top wall in spaced relation with the bottom wall, and means engaging the ends of said rectangular frame for maintaining said top wall in arched position, said means being disengageable so that said top wall may be collapsed into flat position.

11. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a rectangular wire frame secured thereto, a transverse bar secured at the center of opposite sides of said wire frame for supporting garment hangers, supporting means for said bag secured to said wire frame, a collapsible framework arranged within said casing for supporting the top wall in spaced relation with the bottom wall, and means engaging the ends of said rectangular frame for maintaining said top wall in arched position, said means being disengageable so that said top wall may be collapsed into flat position.

12. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a rectangular wire frame secured thereto, a transverse bar secured at the center of opposite sides of said wire frame for supporting garment hangers, two spaced transverse bars secured to said reinforcing frame, a handle anchored to said spaced transverse bars, a collapsible framework arranged within said casing for supporting the top wall in spaced relation with the bottom wall, and means engaging the ends of said rectangular frame for maintaining said top wall in arched position, said means being disengageable so that said top wall may be collapsed into flat position.

13. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top, bottom and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a rectangular wire frame secured thereto, a transverse bar secured at the center of opposite sides of said wire frame for supporting garment hangers, a supporting hook secured to the center of said transverse bar and extending out of said top wall, a collapsible framework arranged within said casing for supporting the top wall in spaced relation with the bottom wall, and means engaging the ends of said rectangular frame for maintaining said top wall in arched position, said means being disengageable so that said top wall may be collapsed into flat position.

14. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a rectangular wire frame secured thereto, supporting means for said bag secured to said wire frame, and means engaging the ends of said rectangular frame for maintaining said top wall in arched position, said means being disengageable so that said top wall may be collapsed into flat position.

15. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a rectangular wire frame secured thereto, a transverse bar secured at the center of opposite sides of said wire frame for supporting garment hangers, supporting means for said bag secured to said wire frame, and a stiff bar engaging the ends of said rectangular frame for maintaining said top wall in arched position, said bar being disengageable so that said top wall may be collapsed into flat position.

16. In a collapsible bag, the combination of a casing formed of flexible material and having top and side walls, means for reinforcing and rendering substantially rigid said top wall comprising a rectangular wire frame secured thereto, a transverse bar secured at the center of opposite sides of said wire frame for supporting garment hangers, two spaced transverse bars secured to said reinforcing frame, a handle anchored to said spaced transverse bars, and a stiff wire bar hooked over the ends of said rectangular frame for maintaining said top wall in arched position, said bar being disengageable so that said top wall may be collapsed into flat position.