Dec. 30, 1924. 1,520,932

D. J. COMSTOCK

TRAVELING BAG OR BOX

Filed Aug. 23, 1923

Fig. 1.

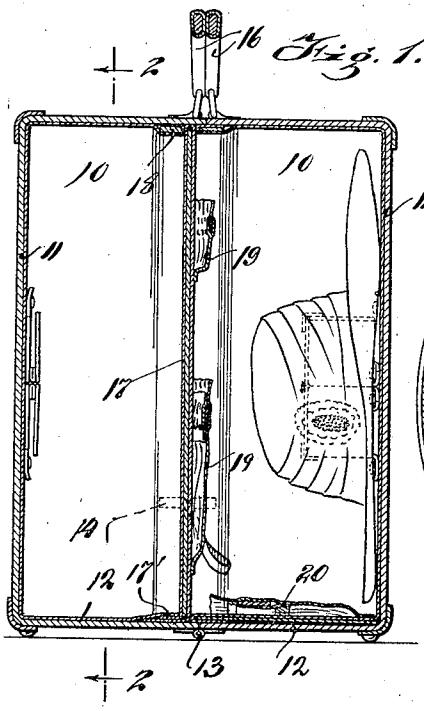


Fig. 2.

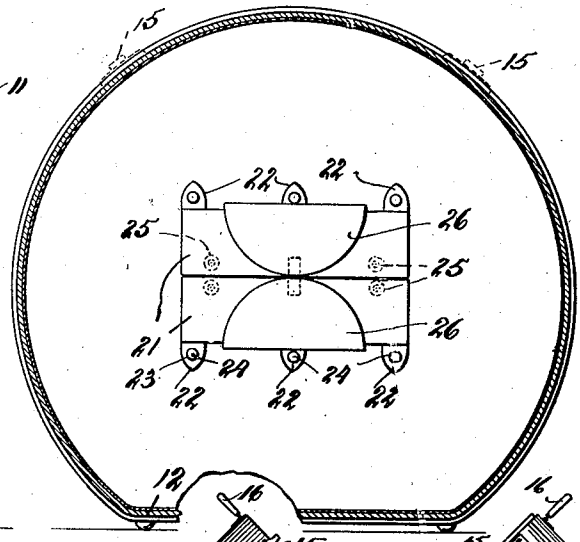


Fig. 3a.

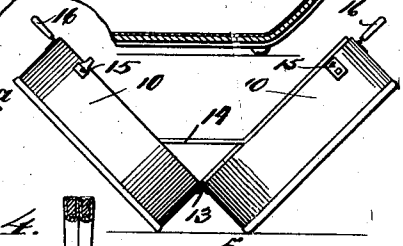


Fig. 3.

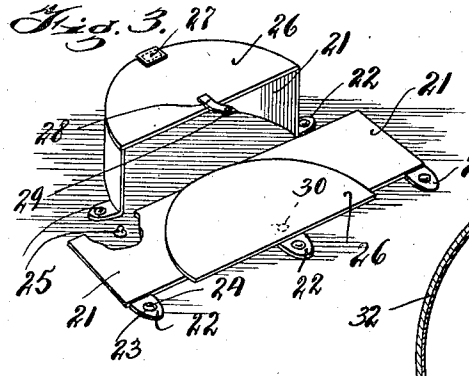


Fig. 4.

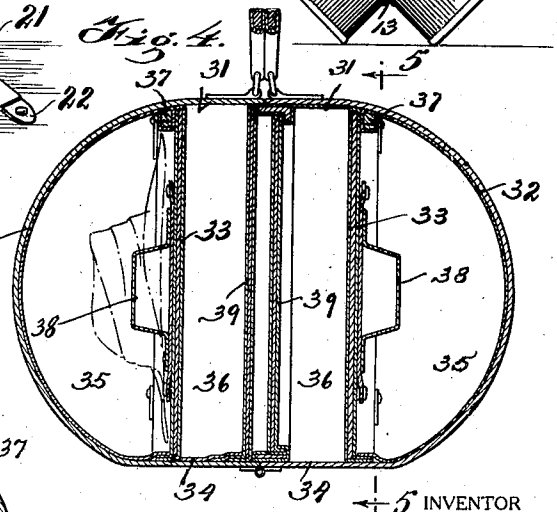
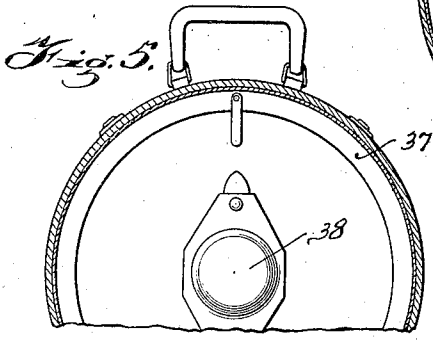


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL J. COMSTOCK, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

TRAVELING BAG OR BOX.

Application filed August 23, 1923. Serial No. 658,888.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL J. COMSTOCK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Traveling Bags or Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to traveling bags or boxes, particularly for ladies' hats and other apparel or articles and has for its object to provide a construction, whereby more than one hat can be conveniently packed without any danger of crushing or otherwise damaging the same.

Another object of this invention is to provide a construction, which will permit hats and other apparel to be packed interchangeably or together without interfering with one another.

Other objects of this invention will appear from the detailed description thereof.

In the accompanying drawing, which constitutes part of this specification and in which similar reference characters denote corresponding parts, Fig. 1 is a vertical section of one embodiment of my invention; Fig. 2 a cross section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 a perspective view of a detail; Fig. 3ª a reduced side elevation showing the case in open position; Fig. 4 a similar section to Fig. 1 of a modified form of construction of the case and Fig. 5 a cross section on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

The box or bag, according to Figs. 1 to 3ª inclusive, is composed of two uniform substantially cylindrically curved sections 10, each having a flat end wall 11 and a part of its cylindrical circumference flattened as at 12. The two sections are hinged together at their flattened portions 12, as at 13, with their open ends facing one another. The flattened portions 12 of the two compartments together serve to form a base. At points below the center of each case, are attached to the inner face of the cylindrical wall 11 straps or flexible bands 14 (Fig. 3ª) of suitable length serving to hold the two cases at a convenient angle apart, when the same are tilted laterally into open position, while the case is resting on its base 12. At convenient places on the outer face of the side wall, I provide suitable locking means 15 for locking the box in closed position. I also provide on top of the box two handles 16, one for each case or section. Tiltably attached, as at 17', to the inner face of either one or each of the sections, is a substantially circular flap 17 to serve as a lid for the open end of the respective section. In closed position, the flap or lid is adapted to rest on an annular ledge or shoulder 18 projecting from the inner face of the side wall of the respective case. The flap or lid may have on either or each one of its faces pockets 19 for the accommodation of toilet articles or the like. Similar pockets 20 may be provided on the inner face of the base of either or each compartment.

When using the box or either of its sections as a hat case, a centering piece must be employed, which, projecting into the hollow of the crown of the hat, is adapted to retain the hat steadily in position, so as to prevent it from being crushed or otherwise damaged by being knocked from side to side, when handling the bag. Ordinarily such centering pieces are projecting conical or cylindrical bodies fastened to the bottom of the box. When it is desired to use the bag for articles other than hats, the centering piece must be detached and either removed entirely from within the box or else accommodated elsewhere therein, both being obviously objectionable.

According to my invention, the centering piece is made collapsible, so that when its use as a centering piece is not desired, it can be folded down to lie flatly on the wall to which it is attached permitting the packing of articles other than hats. To this end, my centering piece is composed of two separate strips 21 of stiffened material, which are arranged contiguously side by side on the inner face of the side wall of each compartment, as per example shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Each of these strips, at the remote side edges, is formed with laterally projecting flexible flaps or ears 22 of which one is arranged about the middle of the strip and one near each end thereof. Each flap is formed with an eyelet 23 of the usual snap fastener type. Fixed to the wall to which these strips are to be attached are snap buttons 24 arranged in a line and correspondingly spaced, so as to engage the eyelets 23 of each strip, when in collapsed position. When it is desired to form a centering piece, the end flaps 22 of each strip are disengaged from their corresponding buttons 24 leaving the middle or center

flaps intact, that is, in engagement with their buttons, and then the strips are raised and their end portions bent in a circular manner, until the end edges of the two strips meet. At these points, additional buttons 25 are provided, which are adapted to engage the eyelets of the end flaps, so that the two erected strips now will together form a cylindrical or tubular body similar to the usual centering piece, which, when projected into the hollow of the crown of a hat, will retain the latter in position.

The hollow of said centering piece may be utilized as a pocket for the accommodation of various small articles, such as bottles or the like. To this end, a lid may be provided to close said pocket. This lid is made up of two circular sections 26, each tiltably attached at the center of its circular edge to the center of the outer or upper edge of each strip, as at 27. These sections, when the strips are collapsed, rest flatly thereon. Near their straight edges, these circular flaps may be provided with a strap 28 and snap fasteners 29, 30, whereby the two sections of the lid may be held together in closed position.

In the modification shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the bag or box is so shaped that the hats, when packed, instead of being supported on the side walls, as in the first example, are suspended or supported by centering pieces attached to tiltable flaps or lids. The box is composed of two cylindrically curved sections or cases 31 whose end walls 32, instead of being flat, as in the first example, are substantially hemispherically shaped. In each section, I provide a tiltable flap or lid 33, which is attached to the inner face of the flattened base 34 and whereby the section is divided into separate compartments 35, 36. The compartment 35, which is surrounded by the hemispherical wall, is adapted to accommodate a hat and the other compartment 36 serves for packing other articles. The flap 33 is shaped and constructed similar to the flap 17, and rests on a shoulder or ledge 37 projecting from the inner face of the side wall of said hat compartment. In its center, the flap 33 may be provided with a centering piece 38 of ordinary construction or of the collapsible construction heretofore described. The open end of each case may be closed by a similar lid or flap 39.

It will be seen that a bag constructed according to my invention is very practical in that it not only provides room for the accommodation of at least two hats without any danger of crushing or damaging the same, but permits the use of the space therein interchangeably for hats and other articles without the necessity of removing the centering pieces. Another advantage of my new traveling bag is that while the bag stands on its base in upright position, it can be opened in the center and retained in the open position permitting access at once to the compartments of both sections.

What I claim is:—

1. A traveling bag or box composed of cylindrically curved sections or cases, each having a part of its cylindrical surface flattened to form a base, and both cases being hinged together at said base, the end wall of each case being hemispherically curved, a flap or lid in each case dividing the latter into separate compartments, the one bounded by said hemispherical wall serving for the accommodation of a hat and means on the inner face of said flap or lid for retaining a hat in position.

2. In a bag or box for hats and other articles, parallel stiffened strips so attached as to be capable of being raised and bent to form together a tubular body adapted to be projected into the crown of a hat and serve both as a hat retainer and pocket, a foldable flap on each strip, which when the strips are raised will together form a lid to close the open top of said tubular body, means for securing said strips in such raised and bent position and means for locking said flaps in closed position.

3. A traveling bag or box composed of two cylindrical cases, each having a part of its circumference flattened to form a base and both being hinged together at said base, a removable member on the inner surface of the side wall of each case for retaining a hat in position therein and a flap tiltably fastened at the juncture of the two flattened portions of the cylindrical walls of said cases and a ledge on one of said cylindrical walls serving as rest for said flap separating said two cases.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

DANIEL J. COMSTOCK.

Witnesses:
MAX D. ORDMANN,
JOSEPH T. MCMAHON.