M. F. McFARLAND.

TOILET CASE FOR AUTOMOBILES.

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1,243,958.

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Fig. 1.

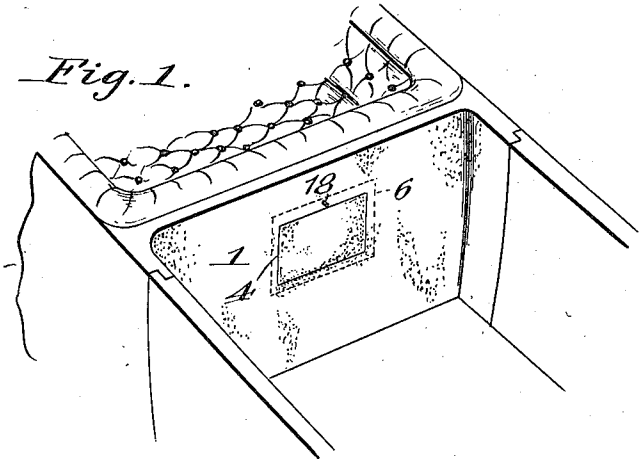


Fig. 2.

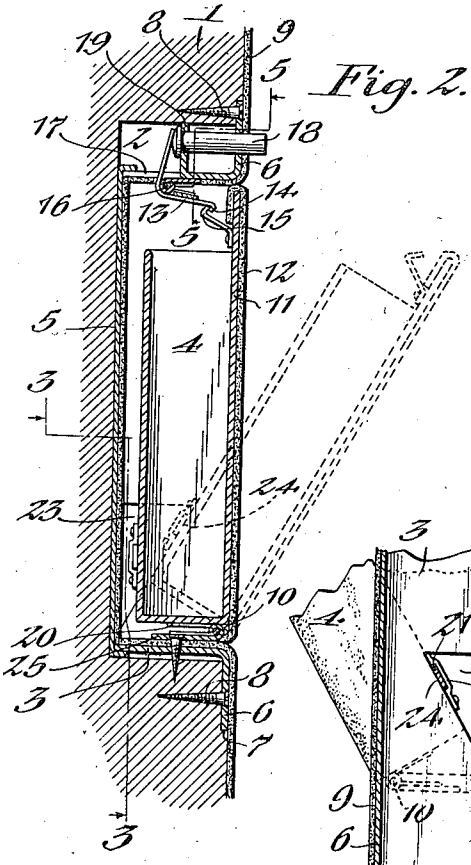


Fig. 3.

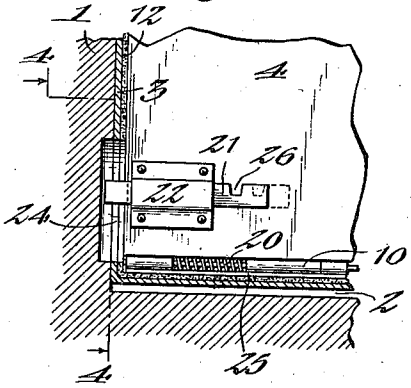
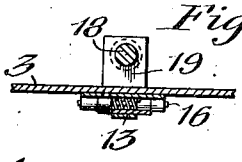


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.



Inventor,
Melvin F. McFarland,
by Geyer & Popp
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MELVIN F. McFARLAND, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

TOILET-CASE FOR AUTOMOBILES.

1,243,958. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 23, 1917.

Application filed April 2, 1917. Serial No. 159,148.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MELVIN F. McFARLAND, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Toilet-Cases for Automobiles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a toilet case and mounting designed more particularly for automobiles.

One of its objects is the provision of a disappearing case of this kind which, when not in use, is practically invisible, whereby the case in no way detracts from the interior decoration of the car.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a simple and inexpensive stop device for the case which normally limits its outward movement on reaching a position for conveniently withdrawing its contents and which at the same time is so constructed as to allow the case to be swung down to a lower or substantially horizontal position for assembling the parts.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of an automobile equipped with the improved toilet case. Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the case, its frame or mounting and the adjacent wall of the automobile, on an enlarged scale. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary vertical section at right angles to Fig. 2, the plane of the section being on line 3—3, in said figure. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the case and mounting on line 4—4, Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a vertical section on line 5—5, Fig. 2.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

One of the walls of the automobile body, for example, the wall 1 behind the front seat, is provided with a recess or pocket 2 in which is seated the frame or mounting 3 of the toilet case 4. In the preferred construction shown in the drawings, the case and the frame are rectangular and the recess 2 is of corresponding form and dimensions, except at its top where a space is left to accommodate a locking catch for the toilet case and a releasing device therefor, hereinafter more fully described. The back of the frame 3 may be closed by a plate 5, which is suitably secured thereto. At its front edge this frame is provided with an outwardly-extending marginal flange 6 preferably seated in a rabbet 7 in the wall 1, so as to be flush therewith, and secured therein by screws 8 passing through said flange, as shown in Fig. 2. The interior of the frame including its back plate 5, is covered with the same cloth or material 9 as the interior of the car body and this material also covers the face of the flange 7. The frame is preferably constructed of sheet metal but it may be made of wood, or other appropriate material, if desired.

Normally arranged within the recess formed by this frame, is the toilet case 4 which is hinged to the frame, preferably at its lower edge, as shown at 10, so that the case may be swung out sufficiently to afford convenient access to the toilet bottles, card case, or other contents, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2, and by full lines in Fig. 4. This case may also be constructed of sheet metal. Its upper edge preferably terminates short of the top of the frame 3, while its front plate 11 is of sufficient height to snugly fit the frame when covered with a suitable fabric 12, which in practice usually matches the material with which the interior of the car is decorated. The toilet case is hinged to the frame in such manner that when closed, its face-plate is flush with the interior covering of the car body, thus producing a neat finish and completely concealing the toilet case.

The case may be locked in its closed position by any suitable means, that shown in the drawings comprising a vertically swinging elbow lever or spring catch 13 having its lower arm provided with a hook 14 which interlocks with a corresponding hook or lip 15 secured to the portion of the front plate 12 which projects above the toilet case, as seen in Fig. 2. This elbow lever is pivoted at 16 to the top member of the frame 3 which is recessed at 17 for the passage of the upper arm of the catch. Bearing against the front side of this arm is a push button 18 which is guided in an opening in the flange 6 of said frame and a perforated lug 19 bent up from the upper member of the frame and forming the recess 17.

A spring 20, preferably applied to the hinge 10 of the toilet case, tends constantly to swing the case to its open position when unlocked by pressing the button 18.

In order to limit the outward movement of the case on reaching an inclined or par-

tially open position, such as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2, the same is provided with a suitable stop device. The preferred device shown in the drawings consists of a horizontally-sliding bolt 21 arranged on the inner wall of the toilet case near its lower end and arranged in a suitable guide 22. This bolt is adapted to be projected into a notch 23, formed in the adjacent side wall of the frame 3 and to engage the front edge 24 thereof to arrest the toilet case. In the preferred form shown, said edge is inclined to stop or support the toilet case in a position to permit convenient withdrawal of its contents and yet prevent the articles from falling out of the case.

To facilitate the covering of the parts, it is desirable to attach the toilet case to its frame or mounting 3 after the latter has been secured in the recess of the car wall. To permit this, the stop or bolt 21 is made retractable, as shown, so that in fastening the lower hinge leaf 25 of the toilet case to the frame, the case may assume a horizontal position and after being attached to the frame and swung up into the position shown by full lines in Fig. 4 and by dotted lines in Fig. 2, said bolt may be projected to its operative position, as best shown in Fig. 3. For this purpose the bolt may be provided in the upper edge of its rear portion with a notch 26 adapted to receive a screw driver or other tool for moving it into engagement with the frame-notch 23.

To obtain access to the toilet case, it is only necessary to press the button 18, whereupon the spring 20 will throw the case to its open position, and after using and replacing the desired articles, the case is simply pushed back into the frame in which it is automatically locked by the catch 13.

The case when out of use is completely hidden from view, except its front wall, but as this is flush with the interior of the car and covered to match the same, it presents the appearance of a panel which is decorative rather than detractive.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination of a frame adapted to be secured in a recess of an automobile body, a toilet case fitted in said frame and hinged thereto to swing into and out of the frame, and a retractable stop carried by the toilet case and arranged to engage said frame to limit the opening movement of the case.

2. The combination of a frame adapted to be secured in a recess of an automobile body, a toilet case fitted in said frame and hinged at its lower end to swing into and out of the same, and a horizontally-sliding bolt mounted on the toilet case and arranged to engage said frame in a partially-open position of the case.

3. The combination of a frame adapted to be secured in a recess of an automobile body, a toilet case fitted in said frame and hinged at its lower end to swing into and out of the same, said frame being provided in one of its side walls with a notch, and a sliding bolt mounted on the toilet case and adapted to enter said notch to limit the opening movement of the case.

4. The combination of a frame adapted to be secured in a recess of an automobile body, said frame being provided in one of its side walls with a notch, a toilet case arranged in said frame and hinged at its lower end thereto, the face of the case being normally flush with the face of said frame, a sliding stop-bolt mounted on the case and arranged to enter said notch, a spring tending to throw the case to its open position, and a locking catch arranged to engage the free upper portion of the case.

MELVIN F. McFARLAND.