March 4, 1947. L. VALLIÈRES 2,416,783

COLLAPSIBLE VALISE

Filed Nov. 1, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

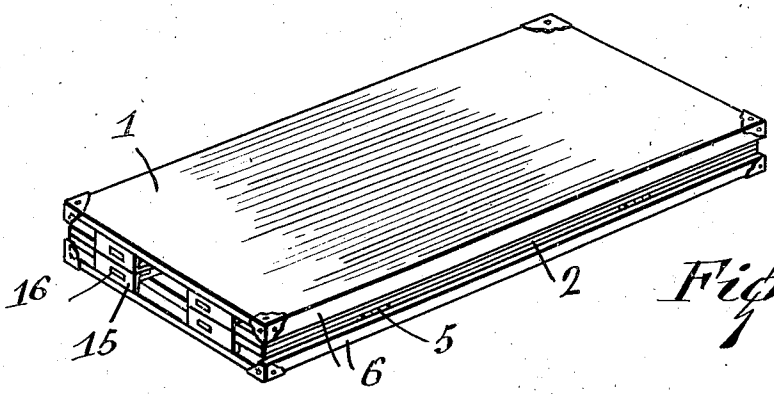


Fig. 1

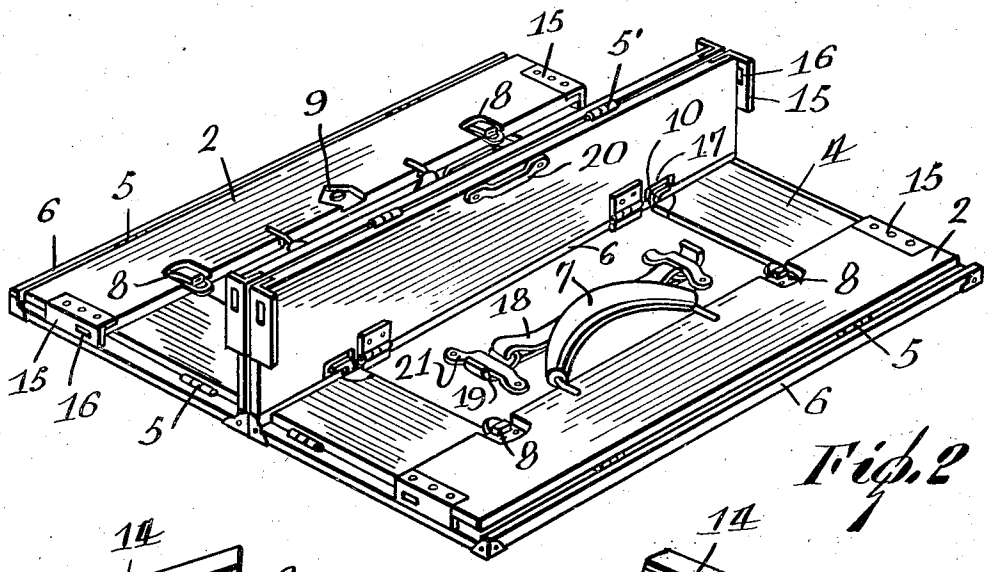


Fig. 2

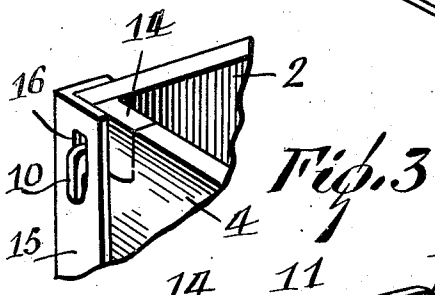


Fig. 3

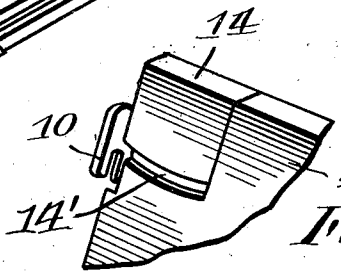


Fig. 5

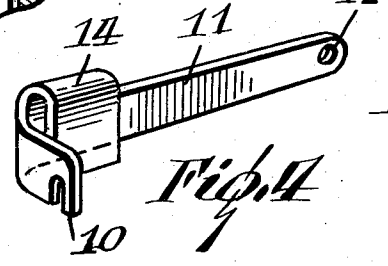


Fig. 4

Inventor:
Lucien Vallières
By Albert Jaurnis
Attorney

March 4, 1947. L. VALLIÈRES 2,416,783

COLLAPSIBLE VALISE

Filed Nov. 1, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

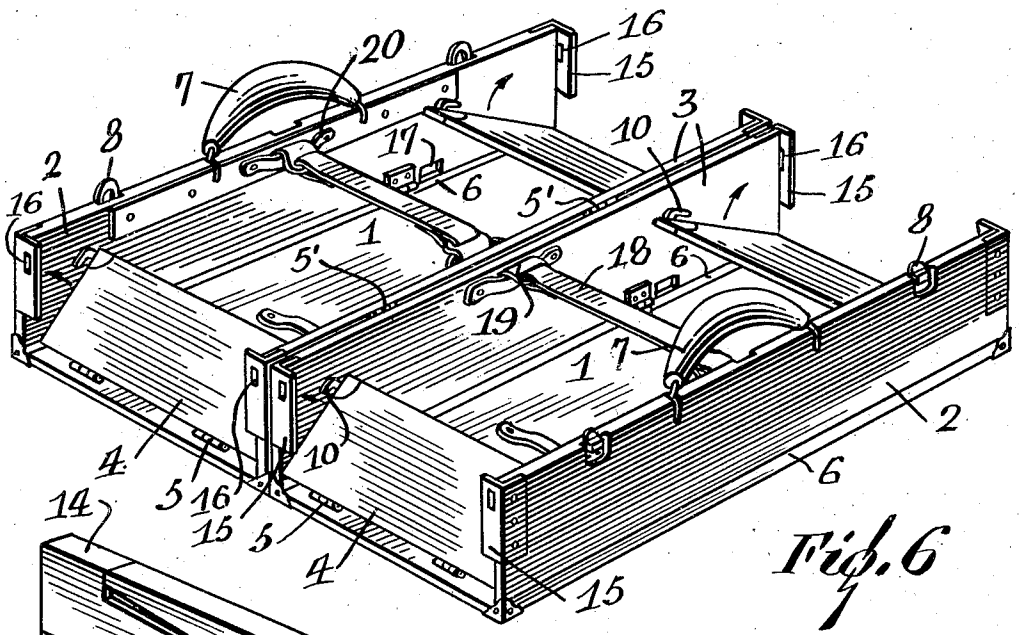


Fig. 6

Fig. 8

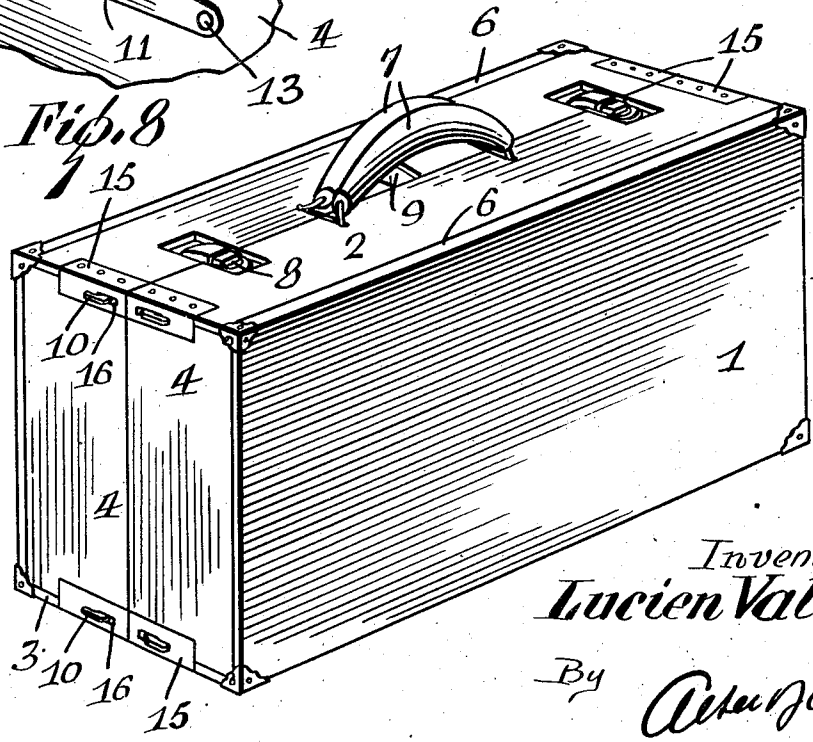


Fig. 7

Inventor:
Lucien Vallières
By
Attorney

Patented Mar. 4, 1947 2,416,783

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,416,783

COLLAPSIBLE VALISE

Lucien Vallières, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

Application November 1, 1944, Serial No. 561,346

1 Claim. (Cl. 190—43)

1

The present invention pertains to a novel collapsible valise The principal object of the invention is to provide a device of this character capable of being collapsed into a compact unit occupying a minimum of space.

Another object of the invention is to provide such collapsibility in a simple structure that can be collapsed or expanded by simple operations. Still another object is to incorporate adequate strength in the expanded valise.

These objects are accomplished by constructing the valise of several wall sections hinged together. The bottom is split lengthwise into two sections that are hinged together. Lateral members are hinged to the bottom sections and end pieces to the lateral members. Top sections corresponding to the bottom sections are hinged to the lateral members. Thus, the end pieces and top sections may be folded against the inner surfaces of the lateral members, and these assemblies may be folded against the doubled bottom.

The free corners of the end pieces are provided with pivoted latch hooks receivable in latch plates on the top and bottom sections, to secure the device in the expanded condition. For further reinforcement, straps may be extended from each top section to the corresponding bottom section. These straps are removable, and means are provided for retaining them when not in use.

The invention is fully disclosed by way of example in the following description and in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device in collapsed condition.

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the device partly unfolded;

Figure 3 is a detail perspective view of one of the corners;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a corner brace shown in Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a detail of Figure 3;

Figure 6 is a perspective view showing the device more completely unfolded;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the valise in condition for use, and

Figure 8 is a detail perspective view of a corner structure, at the surface opposite that shown in Figure 5.

Reference to these views will now be made by use of like characters which are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout.

The valise shown in Figure 7 comprises two lateral members 1, a split top 2, a split bottom 3

2

and two pairs of end pieces 4. These sections and pieces are flat and thin, are attached to the adjacent edges of the respective lateral members by hinges 5. The bottom sections 3 are, moreover, joined to one another in edge-to-edge relation by hinges 5'. A pair of longitudinal strips is provided on the outer and longitudinal edges of the bottom section 3, corresponding to a pair for the top section for allowing space to the adjacent end pieces 4 when folded, as will presently be shown.

Each top section 2 is provided with a handle 7 at the center of its inner edge The handles coincide in abutting relation when the valise is in use, as shown in Figure 7. The same edges carry complementary latch or buckle members 8 and a lock 9 that function in the usual manner.

As may be seen in Figures 2 and 6, the hinges 5 permit the end pieces 4 to be swung inwardly into engagement with the inner surfaces of the lateral members 1. Since the thickness of the pieces 4 corresponds to the depth of the strips 6, the top sections 2 can be swung on piece 4 as shown in Figure 2. Thereafter, the lateral members are swung up against the doubled bottom to form the compact structure shown in Figure 1, having an overall thickness of six sections.

In order to secure the parts in unfolded condition for use, the free corners of the end pieces 4 are provided with hooks 10, one of which is shown detached in perspective in Figure 4. Each such hook has a shank 11 at right angles thereto, and the free end of the shank is apertured at 12. At this aperture the shank is pivoted to the inner surface of an end piece 4, by a pin 13. The end of the shank near the hook 10 is formed with a clip 14 spaced laterally from the body of the shank. The pin 13 is so positioned as to permit the clip to straddle an edge of the end piece 4, near a corner, and seat in a notch 14' thereof, as shown in Figures 3 and 5. In this position the hook 10 projects perpendicularly from the outer surface of the piece 4.

The free corners of the top sections 2 and the inner corners of the bottom sections 3 are provided each with a right angular latch bracket 15. The side of the bracket which lies perpendicular to the piece 2 or 3 to which it is attached is formed with a slot 16 adapted to receive the adjacent hook 10, which locks therein by a swivel movement of the corresponding shank 11. The locked condition is shown in Figure 3. In order to disconnect the end pieces 4 from the top and bottom sections 2 and 3, the hooks 10 are swung along the brackets 15 until they aline with the

slots 16, and the end pieces are then swung inward, thereby withdrawing the hooks from the slots.

In the collapsed condition of the end pieces 4 shown in Figure 2, the hooks 10 would increase the thickness of the fully collapsed valise. Accordingly, notches 17 are formed adjacently in the sections 2, 3 to receive the hooks.

In order to reinforce the expanded valise against spreading or breaking when fully loaded, a strap 18 is provided across each lateral member 1, i. e., between loops 20 on the inner free edges of the respective pair of members 2, 3 and hooked at 19 through the loops 20. Similar loops 21 are attached to the inner surfaces of the lateral members 1 to receive the straps 18 when not needed or when the valise is collapsed.

The first step in collapsing the valise is shown in Figure 2 wherein the bottom 3, 3 is folded or doubled and the top sections 2 and end pieces 4 are swung inward against the inner surfaces of the lateral members 1. The straps 18 are attached to the loops 21 and the handles 7 laid inward. The lateral members 1 are brought up against the doubled bottom 3, 3 to produce the relatively thin, compact structure shown in Figure 1. A number of valises folded in this manner can be stored in the space ordinarily occupied by one valise.

To prepare the valise for use, the parts are unfolded in the reverse manner and the hooks 10 are locked in the latch plates 15 in the manner already described. Either operation of folding or unfolding is quick and simple and requires no complicated manipulations.

The strips 6 cover and protect the ends of the members 4 in the collapsed condition and reinforce the corresponding edges, at the sides 1, in the expanded condition.

Although a specific embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described it will be understood that various alterations in the details of construction may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as indicated by the appended claim.

What I claim as my invention is:

A collapsible valise comprising a bottom member split lengthwise in two sections hinged together in edge-to-edge relation, a pair of lateral members respectively hinged at one longitudinal edge to the outer longitudinal edge of each bottom section, end pieces hinged freely to the respective transverse edges of said lateral members and having the same width as said bottom sections, top sections hinged respectively to the remaining longitudinal edges of said lateral members, a pair of L-shaped hooks having their long arms pivotally mounted, respectively, at each end of the free edge of each end section, a clip formed on each long arm remote from its pivot and adapted to straddle an end of the corresponding end piece, and apertured plates carried by said top and bottom sections and adapted to receive said hooks.

LUCIEN VALLIÈRES.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
513,726	Potts	Jan. 30, 1894
1,007,035	Kohout	Oct. 24, 1911
844,955	Morgan	Feb. 19, 1907
1,180,294	Hunter	Apr. 25, 1916
669,507	Claughton	Mar 12, 1901
2,339,907	Bracken	Jan. 25, 1944
1,093,681	Beste	Apr. 21, 1914

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
57,497	Austrian	June 1, 1912
510,122	French	Nov. 27, 1920