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Mārstaļu iela 2/4, Rīga LV-1050, LV⑤4 Virsraksts: **Bagāžas soma**

⑤7 Kopsavilkums:

Bagāžas soma aprīkota ar viegli uzliekamām un noņemamām ārējām atribūtiem, tādiem kā ritenīši u.c. atbalsta līdzekļi, rokturi vai cilpas. Soma sastāv no diviem ar virām savienotiem nodalījumiem, ārējām ierīcēm un slēdzējierīcēm, pie tam ārējās ierīces satur sastiprinājuma daļu, kas pielāgota, lai iekļautos otra nodalījuma sastiprinājuma daļā. Ārējā nodalījuma sastiprinājuma daļā ir atvere caur apvalka sienu un ārējo ierīču sastiprinājuma daļā ir izciļnis, kurš turpinās caur atveri somas sienā līdz somas iekšpusei, un ar roku atvienojami saslēgi, kas darbināmi no somas iekšpuses, lai atvienotu izciļņa sazobi, kas atrodas somas iekšpusē ārējo ierīču sastiprinājuma daļas noturēšanai noteiktā stāvoklī.

IZGUDROJUMA FORMULA

1. Bagāžas soma, kura sastāv no diviem ar virām savienotiem nodalījumiem, ārējām ierīcēm un slēdzējierīcēm, kuras satur ar roku atvienojamus aizslēgus, pie tam ārējās ierīces satur sastiprinājuma daļu, kura tā pielāgota, lai iekļautos otra nodalījuma atbilstošajā sastiprinājuma daļā, pie kam nodalījuma sastiprinājuma daļā un nodalījuma sienā ir atvere, bet ārējo ierīču sastiprinājuma daļā ir izcilnis, kurš iebīdās cauri atverei somas sienā līdz somas iekšpusei un ar roku atvienojami aizslēgi, kas darbināmi no somas iekšpuses lai atvienotu izcilņa daļas sazobi, kura atrodas somas iekšpusē ārējo ierīču sastiprinājuma daļas noturēšanai noteiktā stāvoklī.
2. Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 1.p., satur lenti bagāžas nostiprināšanai somas iekšpusē, slēgus, kuri satur lentes fiksatorus pie somas apvalka iekšpuses.
3. Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 2.p., kurā slēdzējierīces satur spraugas lenšu palīgierīcēm.
4. Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 3.p., kurā padziļinājums ir neapaļas formas.
5. Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 1.p., kurā izcilnim ir šķērsatvērums, kurā iebīdās daļa slēdzējierīču, kad ar rokas vadību atvienojami aizslēgi tiek vadīti no somas iekšpuses.

6, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 5.p., kurā slēdzējierīces ietver mēlīti, kura iet cauri izciļņa atvērūmam, lai noturētu pamatsazobējuma līdzekļu sastiprinājuma daļu noteiktā stāvoklī attiecībā pret nodalījuma sienas ārpusi.

7, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 6.p., kurā mēlīte ir ķīļveida.

8, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 1.p., kurā ar roku atvienojamie aizslēgi sazobē balstus nodalījuma iekšpusē, lai noturētu slēdzējierīces noteiktā stāvoklī.

9, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 8.p., kurā ar roku atvienojamie aizslēgi satur divus elastīgus sprūdus.

10, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 9.p., kurā sprūdi sazobē robus, kuri izveidoti somas iekšpusē.

11, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 10.p., kurā sprūdi centrāli nostiprināti uz starp to galiem izvietotiem divu sviru pleciem, pie kam sviru pleci satur stiprinājuma daļu un sviru plecu gali ir nobīdīti attiecībā viens pret otru, sprūdi novirzīti viens no otra tā, lai atbrīvotu balstu sazobi, kad sviru plecu satiprinājuma daļu saspiež kopā.

12, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 6.p., kurā ar roku atvienojamie aizslēgi satur elastīgu galeni, kurš atrodās uz mēlītes daļas, kura var iziet caur izciļņa atvērūmam un kurš satur ar roku vadāmu āķi, kurš sazobējas ar izciļņa daļu gar atvērūmu, lai aizkavētu mēlītes izvilkšanu.

13, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 1.p., kurā ārējās ierīces nostiprinātas nodalījuma atveramās daļas ārpusē, kurš ārpusē vēsts gar asi, kura perpendikulāra somas pamatsienas plaknei un neuzrāda kaut cik ievērojamu atvērūma leņķi.

14, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 1.p., kurā izcilnis satur spraugu, un slēdzējierīces ietver daļu, kura apvienota ar spraugu, lai aizkavētu izciļņa izvilkšanu cauri atverei, un slēdzējierīču un spraugas apvienojošā daļa, kura ir izveidota tā, ka ierīces pakāpeniski tiek vilktas stingrāk pret apvalku, kad slēģierīces ievietošanas izciļņa spraugā.

15, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 14.p., kurā minētā slēdzējierīču daļa ir ķīļveidīga.

16, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 15.p., kurā ar roku atvienojamās slēdzējierīces ietver ar roku darbināmus, atvienojamus elastīgi nostiprinātus sprūdus, āķus vai aizbīdņus slēdzējierīču noturēšanai noteiktā stāvoklī.

17, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 1. p., kurā ārējās ierīces satur pamatsazobēšanas līdzekļus.

18, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 17. p., kurā ārējās ierīces ir ritenītis, kurš nostiprināts uz ass, kura savukārt balsteņveidā nostiprināta ar sastiprinājuma daļu.

19, Bagāžas soma, saskaņā ar 18. p., kurā ritenīša ass pagarināta galvenokārt paralēli atveres asij.

20, Mezglis pašmontāžas bagāžas somas veidošanai, kurš ietver somas pamatnodalījumu un vāku apvalku un šarnīrierīci pamatnodalījuma un vāku apvalku savienošanai kopā, kad soma tiek montēta, pie kam šarnīrierīces satur šarnīrasi ievietošanai apvienotajā šarnīrsavienojumā uz nodalījumiem, kad soma tiek montēta, šarnīrass ietver sevī ass daļu un šķērsdaļu, šķērsdaļa ir sazobējama ar fiksēšanas līdzekļiem, kuri ir uz nodalījuma apvalka, lai kavētu šarnīrass aksiālo nobīdi, kad šķērsdaļu sazobē ar fiksēšanas

līdzekļiem, un šarnīrierīču apvienošanai ar slēdzējierīcēm uz fiksēšanas līdzekļiem, lai kavētu šķērsdaļas gadījuma nobīdi no fiksēšanas līdzekļiem.

21. Mezglis saskaņā ar 20. p., kurā fiksēšanas līdzekļi ietver spraugu vai padziļinājumu viena nodalījuma sienā šarnīrlīdzekļu šķērsdaļas ievietošanai.

22. Mezglis saskaņā ar 21. p., kurā uz šarnīrlīdzekļiem apvienotus izciļņus un rievās.

23. Mezglis saskaņā ar 21. p., kurā šarnīrlīdzekļu vienā galā izveidota cilindriskā daļa ar izvirzītu šķērsdaļu, pie kam cilindriskā daļa satur izcilni, kurš savienojas ar somas malu un notur šķērsdaļu spraugā vai padziļinājumā.

LUGGAGE CASE

The present invention relates to luggage cases and is particularly concerned with an arrangement for mounting external fittings such as, for example, wheels or other ground-engaging support means or carrying handles or pulling loops, on cases.

It is well known to provide a case with wheels or casters on its outsides on which the case can be trundled when heavily laden. It is also known to provide cases with feet to make the case more stable when stood on edge and to protect the shell of the case from scuffing. It is also well known to provide cases with carrying handles and pulling loops or handles.

The provision of such external fittings on the outside of the shell of a case does however give rise to a number of problems.

When the handles, loops, wheels or feet are assembled in the factory each item usually has to be assembled by hand with a tool such as a screwdriver to fix it in position.

The wheels or feet can cause problems for the user in stowing the case when not in use because they project from the outside of the shell of the case.

To assist the user in storing cases when not in use it has been proposed to produce a case which is formed of two shells, a base shell and a lid shell, which are joined together by a hinge pin which can be removed when the case is not in use so that the lid shell can be inverted and nested with the base shell to make the case more compact for storage. When provided with projecting wheels or feet or handles it may be necessary to remove the wheels or feet or handles before the shells can be nested.

There is thus a need for an arrangement for mounting a wheel or foot or handle to a shell whereby mounting or demounting can be achieved easily by unskilled users and without the use of tools.

According to the present invention there is provided a luggage case comprising two shells, hinged together, an external fitting, and retaining means, the external fitting including a mounting portion adapted to fit against a corresponding mounting portion of one of the shells, the mounting portion of the shell including an aperture through the wall of the shell, and the mounting portion of the ground-engaging means including a projection which extends through the aperture in the wall of the case to the inside, and the retaining means being releasably engageable with the part of the projection which is inside the shell to retain the mounting portion of the external fitting in position.

Preferably the case includes a strap for securing the luggage inside the case and the retaining means comprises means for

anchoring the strap to the wall of the case. Thus the retaining means can be made to accomplish two separate functions: to hold the mounting for the external fitting in position and to provide anchorage for the strap that is used for holding garments or other contents in position when the case is in use. By eliminating the need for separate components to fulfill these functions simplification and a saving in the manufacturing costs is achieved.

When the case is one which is designed to be disassembled for storage, providing the retaining means as the anchorage for the straps has the additional advantage that the retaining means is attached to the end of the strap and is therefore less likely to get lost when the fitting is disassembled.

Where the shells are moulded from plastics material, the aperture preferably has its axis perpendicular to the plane of the major wall of the case. In this way the aperture can be formed by the same moulding tool as the rest of the shell and there is no need for a separate insert in the moulding tool for forming the aperture. Furthermore, where a re-entrant portion is provided in the outside of the shell to receive the fitting or a recess is formed for receiving the mounting portion of the fitting they too are preferably aligned with the direction of movement of the moulding tools for the shell so as to present no significant undercuts. In this way the construction of the moulding tool is simplified and the costs and time taken in moulding the shells is reduced.

The retaining means preferably include resiliently mounted latching means for holding the retaining means in engagement with

the projection. The latching means preferably include a detent, catch or pawl resiliently mounted on the retaining means.

The retaining means is preferably constructed so that as it is engaged with the projection it progressively pulls the mounting means of the external fitting into engagement with the shell of the case. To this end the retaining means may comprise a wedge-shaped portion which engages a slot in the projection.

The retaining means preferably is of a size and shape that it can easily be gripped in the hand and engaged with the projection without the use of tools.

The invention in another aspect provides a pack for constructing a self-assembly luggage case, the pack including a base shell and a lid shell for the case, and hinge means for connecting the base shell and the lid shell together when the case is assembled, the hinge means comprising a hinge pin for insertion into co-operating hinge butts on the shells when the case is assembled, the hinge pin including a pin portion and a transverse portion, the transverse portion being engageable with locating means on the shell to prevent axial movement of the hinge pin when the transverse portion is engaged with the locating means, and retaining means on the hinge means for co-operating with retaining means on the locking means to prevent accidental displacement of the transverse portion from the locking means.

The pack described in its preferred form is easy to assemble without the use of tools.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Fig.1 shows a perspective view of a suitcase;

Fig.2 shows a perspective view of the suitcase of Fig.1 in an open condition;

Fig.3 shows an enlarged fragmentary view of a hinge of the case of Figs. 1 and 2 with the parts separated;

Fig.4 shows a view similar to Fig.3 of a modification of the hinge arrangement;

Fig.5 shows a cross section through the hinge pin of Fig.4.

Fig.6 shows a cross-section on the line VI - VI of Fig.5;

Fig.7 shows an underneath plan view of the transverse portion of the hinge pin of Figs.4 to 6;

Fig.8 shows a cross section similar to Fig.5 of a further modification of the hinge arrangement;

Fig.9 shows an enlarged fragmentary view of an arrangement for mounting a wheel of the case of Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig.10 shows a cross-section through the wheel of Fig.9;

Fig.11 shows a perspective view of the wheel of Fig.9;

Fig.12 shows a perspective view of an alternative arrangement for mounting a wheel with the parts separated;

Fig.13 shows yet another arrangement for mounting the wheel with the parts separated;

Fig.14 shows an enlarged perspective view of the retaining clip for the wheel assembly of Fig.13;

Fig.15 shows a perspective view of an arrangement for mounting a foot of the case of Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig.16 shows a perspective view of an alternative arrangement for mounting a foot on the case of Figs.1 and 2; and

Fig.17 shows a perspective view of an internal retaining strap for the case of Fig.1 and 2.

The drawings show a suitcase 10 which is designed to be supplied with the shell halves, nested together and to be easily assembled by a person wishing to use the case. After use, the case can be dismantled for storage, and later reassembled for use.

The suitcase 10 comprises two moulded plastics shells 12 and 14. One shell 12 constitutes a base shell, and the other shell 14 constitutes a lid shell. Each shell 12, 14 has a major side wall 17,19 and a peripheral wall 16,18, respectively. The peripheral walls 16 and 18 together form the top wall 20, bottom wall 22, and end walls 24 of the case, as shown in fig.1. The base shell 12 is formed with an integrally moulded handle strip 15 along the top wall of the case. A portion of the strip forms a carrying

handle 26 which is spaced from the top wall 20 of the case by a short distance. An arcuate recess 28 is formed in the centre region of the top wall 20 under the carrying handle 26 to provide adequate hand clearance for a person to grasp the handle to carry the case.

A pair of wheels 11 are attached to the bottom wall 22 of the case in a re-entrant portion of the shell at the corners between the bottom wall 22 and one of the end walls 24. A pair of feet 13 are attached to the bottom wall near the corners between the bottom wall 22 and the other end wall 24.

The shells 12 and 14 are hinged together along the bottom wall 22 of the case. Four slidable catches are provided for releasably fastening the shells together when the case is closed. Two catches 32a and 32b are located on the top wall 20 of the case, and two catches 34a and 34b are located one on each end wall 24. The ends of the strip 15 that forms the handle extend over the corners between the front wall 20 and the end walls 24 and are slidably attached to housings of the side catches 34a and 34b , to form flexible loop handles for pulling or pushing the case on its wheels.

Referring to figures 2 and 3, the shells 12 and 14 are hinged together by three butt hinges 30a, 30b and 30c which are spaced apart along the bottom wall 22. Two hinges 30a and 30c are located near the corners of the bottom wall, and the other hinge 30b is located at the middle of the bottom wall.

The hinge 30a is shown in more detail in fig. 3 and 4. It comprises two sets of lugs or butts 36 and 38 integrally moulded

on the edges of the peripheral side walls 16 and 18, respectively. The lugs in each set are spaced apart such that the set of lugs 36 fit the spaces between the lugs 38. A cylindrical bore 40 passes through each of the lugs 36 and 38. A slot 42 is formed in the peripheral wall of one of the shells, in this embodiment in the base shell 12, near one end of the hinge. The lugs 36 and 38 are secured together by an L-shaped hinge pin 44. The stem 45 of the pin 44 is inserted in the aligned bores 40, the transverse portion 46 of the pin 44 is rotated to locate the slot or recess 42 to lock the hinge pin 44 in position. The transverse portion forms a tight fit in the slot 42 so that the pin 44 will not become dislodged accidentally. To assemble the hinge, the shells 12 and 14 are arranged so that the lugs 36 and 38 on the shells are in register. The stem 45 of the hinge pin 44 is inserted into the end of the cylindrical bore 40 formed by the lugs, and pushed home. The end hub portion 47 of the pin adjacent the transverse portion is enlarged to serve as a stop to limit the extent to which the pin can be inserted into the bores and to make the hinge pin easier to grip. The pin 44 is gripped by the end 47 and the transverse portion 46 and pushed into the bore 40 by hand. Once the stem has been fully inserted, the pin 44 is rotated to locate the transverse portion 46 in the slot 42.

As shown in Fig.3, the slot 42 has a U-shaped ridge 49 lying in the plane of the peripheral wall 18 which cooperates with grooves 51 in the sides of the transverse portion 46 to locate the transverse portion in position in the slot 42. The transverse portion of the hinge pin is made of resilient plastics material as is the side wall of the case which allows the sides of the transverse portion to ride over the ridge until the grooves are positioned over the ridge. The entire pin including stem and transverse portion can be moulded of plastic material.

Alternatively, the stem of the hinge pin may be formed of metal and the transverse portion formed of resilient plastics material.

The hinge is also designed so that it can be dismantled, for example, when the case is to be stored. To dismantle the hinge, the transverse portion 46 is pulled up out of the slot 42, and the pin 44 is then withdrawn from the bore 40 by using the transverse portion 46 as a handle on which to pull. The end 53 of the transverse portion projects inwards beyond the wall of the case so that it can be easily lifted out of the slot. Once the pin 44 has been extracted, the sets of lugs 36 and 38 can be separated.

The design of the slot 42 is such that the pin 44 cannot be removed from the hinge 30a unless the case is open. When the case is closed, the edge 29 of the lid shell wall 18 engages over the transverse portion 46 of the pin 44 thereby preventing it from being lifted out of the slot. The stem of the hinge pin 44 is therefore fixed axially within the cylindrical bore 40 of the hinge. This provides an added security feature in that, although the hinge is designed to be easily dismantled, the hinge parts cannot be separated unless the case has already been opened. The case is thus protected from a thief who might try to break into the case by removing the hinge pins.

Figs.4 to 7 show a modification of the hinge pin and locking arrangement of Fig.3. In this arrangement the sides of the transverse portion 46' carry ridges or lugs 491 which co-operate with grooves or recessed 511 formed in the sides of the slot 42 to retain the transverse portion in the slot against accidental rotational displacement. The ridge 491 are carried on tabs 53'

partially separated from the adjacent parts of the transverse portion 46' by slots 55 so that they can flex more easily as the transverse portion is pushed into the slot 42 and the ridges 491 ride past projections 57 which define the grooves or recesses 491. In other respects the embodiment of Figs.4 to 7 is the same as that of Fig.3 and the same reference numerals have been used.

Fig.8 shows another modification of arrangement for holding hinge pin in the slot. In this arrangement a radial projection 59 is formed on the hub or barrel portion 4711 of the hinge pin. The radial projection 59 co-operates with the edge of the shell at 61 to act as retaining means for holding the transverse portion in the slot. As the pin is rotated in the clockwise direction as viewed in Fig.8 about its axis the projection 59 rides over the edge 61 of the shell to pass from the inside to the outside, the resilient of the shell allowing the projection to pass. In the position shown in Fig.8 the projection engages the outside edge of the shell to resist accidental movement of the transverse portion out of the slot but the resistant can be overcome when the transverse portion is deliberately pulled out of the slot.

Fig.10 shows a cross section of one of the wheel assemblies of the case of Figs. 1 and 2. The wheel assembly comprises a wheel

mounting plate 60 which is moulded onto an axle 62. A wheel 64 is rotatable mounted on the axle 62 and retained by a star washer 66. A hub cap 68 is a friction fit in a recess 70 in the outer side of the wheel and provides a decorative finish to the wheel as well as keeping dirt out.

The wheel assembly is mounted in a reentrant portion 80 of the shell at the corner between one of the end walls and the bottom wall. A non-circular, approximately key-hole shaped recess 82 is formed in the outside wall of the shell for receiving a correspondingly shaped raised portion 84 on the inside of the mounting plate. The raised portion includes a generally circular part 86 around the axle and a radially extending portion 88 which extends to the edge of the mounting plate.

The mounting plate is prevented from rotating with the wheel by the non-circular shape of the raised portion 84 of the recess 82 into which it fits.

An aperture 90 in the form of a slot extends through the wall of the shell in the region of the recess 82. A projection 92 extends inwardly of the case from the portion 88 of the mounting plate and is a close fit in the aperture 90. The inner end of the projection lies inside the case when assembled and has a transverse slot 94 passing through it. The slot tapers in thickness from the end nearer the rim of the wheel towards the end nearest the axle.

A clip 96 serves to retain the wheel assembly in position on the case. The clip includes a body portion 98 with a tongue 100 projecting from its forward end. The tongue tapers in thickness towards its free end. The tongue 100 fits the slot 94 in the wheel mounting 84. When the wheel mounting is positioned against the outside of the shell with the raised portion 84 in the recess 82 and the projection 92 extending through the aperture 90, the tongue 100 can be inserted into the slot 94 to retain the wheel assembly in position. The tapered shape of the tongue co-operates

with the slot to pull the wheel mounting tightly into position. The body 98 of the clip 96 bears against the inside of the shell to take the reaction forces. There is an indentation 102 on the inside of the shell on opposite sides of the slot to provide clearance for the tongue.

Along opposite sides of the clip are two generally parallel lever arms 104. The arms 104 are joined to the body 98 by integral hinge portions 106. At the forward ends of the levers are two inwardly facing opposing pawls 108.

The rear ends of the levers 104 are spaced from the body 96 and formed with gripping portions 110. The whole clip is formed as a single moulding from resilient plastics material. When the gripping portions 110 are squeezed together the lever arms pivot about the hinge portions 106 so that the pawls 108 move away from one another. When the gripping portions are released the pawls move inwards towards one another to resume their original positions.

The inside of the shell is formed with two notches 112 on opposite sides of the raised portion formed by the recess 82 on the outside of the case. When the tongue 100 is in the slot 94 the pawls 108 engage the notches 112 to retain the clip in position.

To release the clip the gripping portions 110 are squeezed together to release the pawls from the notches, thereby allowing the pawls to pass over the abutments formed by the sides of the notches and enabling the tongue to be withdrawn from the slot.

The body 96 of the clip has three transverse slots 114 at its rear part through which one end of a strap 116 can be threaded.

Fig.10 shows a modification of the wheel mounting of Figs. 9,10 and 11. In this arrangement the mounting plate 841 includes a shroud portion 150 which extends around part of the periphery of the wheel. The edges of the shroud portion engage two parallel dovetail shaped rails 152 formed on the arch 154 of the reentrant portion 90. The rails cooperate with grooves (not shown) in the shroud to locate the shroud and hence the mounting plate in position. The mounting plate is, in other respects similar to the mounting plate 84 of Fig. 9 and held in position in a similar manner.

Figs. 13 and 14 shows another modification of the arrangement for retaining the wheel assembly in position. In this arrangement the clip 961 has a tongue 1001 extending at an angle to the plane of the body 98'. The tongue is wedge-shaped and has a resilient tang 156 projecting upwardly from its upper inner surface and inclined toward the body of the clip. As the tongue 1001 is inserted through the slot 94 in the projection 92 the tang is deflected into the tongue to allow the tongue to pass through. Once the tang 156 has passed through the slot 94, the rearwardly facing edge of the tang 156 can spring up to engage the side of the projection 92 alongside the slot and retain the clip in position. To remove the clip the tang 156 is pressed down into the tongue 1001 so that the tongue can be pulled out of the slot 94.

In other respects, the wheel mounting arrangement of Fig.12 can be similar to that of Fig.9.

Fig.15 shows an arrangement for mounting a foot to the case of Figs. 1 and 2. Near the corner of the shell between the bottom wall and the end wall opposite the end wall where the wheel is located, is a recess 180 in the outside of the shell.

A foot 182 has a ground engaging portion 184 and a mounting portion 186. The mounting portion includes two parallel key portions 188 which cooperate with corresponding grooves at the sides of the recess 180 so that the foot can be slid in the direction of the arrow 192 into the recess. The flange 194 formed around the edge of the mounting portion abuts the outside of the shell to where the mounting portion is pushed fully home.

The mounting portion 186 includes a projection 194 with a transverse slot 196 similar to the projection 92 and slot 94 of the wheel mounting arrangements.

The base of the recess 180 has an aperture 198 in the form of a slot which allows the projection 194 to pass from outside to the inside of the shell. The foot is retained in position by a clip 96 identical to the clip 96 of Fig.9. The retaining of the foot is similar to the retaining of the wheel assembly of Fig.9 and corresponding parts have been given the same numerals.

Fig.16 shows a modification of the arrangement for retaining the foot in which a clip 96' identical to 96 of Figs. 13 and 14 is used. In other respects the foot mounting is the same as that of Fig.15.

Fig.17 is a schematic view of the strap 116 with its anchorage means. Clips 96' are attached to opposite ends of the strap 116

and anchored to the wheel mounting and the foot mounting respectively as shown in Figs. 9 and 15 or 13 and 16, depending on the type of clip used. A third clip 200 is attached to the strap intermediate its ends. The clip 200 has a slot 202 through which the clip passes.

A bracket 204 is attached to the inside of the shell of the suitcase or, as shown, to a dividing panel 206 within the suitcase.

The bracket has an opening 208 through which a hook-shaped portion 210 of the clip 200 can be passed. The hook portion 210 has a lip 212 which rests on a bar portion 214 of bracket 204.

The clip 200 has a channel 216 immediately below the hook portion for receiving the hooks on coat hangers so that when garments on hangers are placed under the strap 116 the hooks on the hangers can be placed in the channel 216 and thus retained in position.

A suitcase as described above may have two wheels and two feet. Only one of the wheels and one of the feet may be secured to the case with clips attached to a strap. The other wheel and foot may be secured by similar clips without any strap attached to them.

It is to be noted that in the embodiments described above the axis of the aperture 90, 198 through which the projection 92, 194 on the mounting portion on the wheel or foot extends, is perpendicular to the major side wall 17, 19 of the case. The re-entrant portions 80, 180 of the shell and the recesses 82 for receiving the mounting portions of the wheel assemblies and feet also face outwardly along this axis so as to present no

undercuts. In this way the apertures, re-entrant portions and recesses can be formed by moulding with the same tool that forms the main shells, without a need for separate inserts.

The suitcase described above may be easily assembled from a kit of parts comprising lid and base shells, hinge pins two wheel assemblies and two feet, four retaining clips and a strap. The two shells may be storage nested one inside the other. To assemble the case the hinge butts of lid and base shells are aligned and the hinge pins are inserted. Clips are threaded onto the ends of the strap and one wheel assembly and one foot are mounted in their recesses in the outside of the base shell using these clips. The remaining wheel assembly and foot are then mounted on the lid of the case using the remaining clips. The case is then ready for use. The case may be disassembled by reversing the process.

The case described can thus be assembled for use and dismantled for storage without the use of tools.

Although in the embodiments described above the mounting in accordance with the invention is described only in relation to mounting the wheels and feet of the case, it will be appreciated that the mounting could be adapted for handles or pulling loops in accordance with the invention.

Fig.1

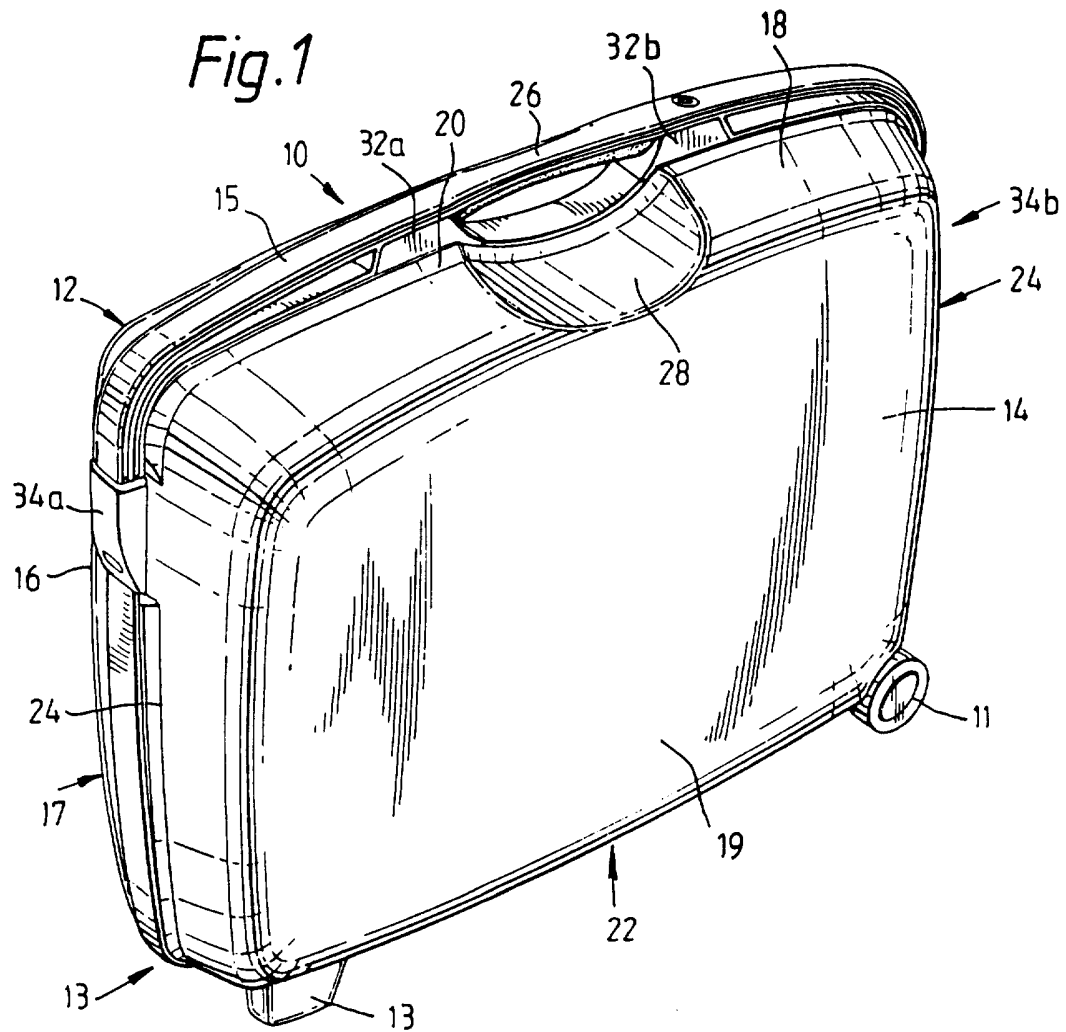


Fig.2

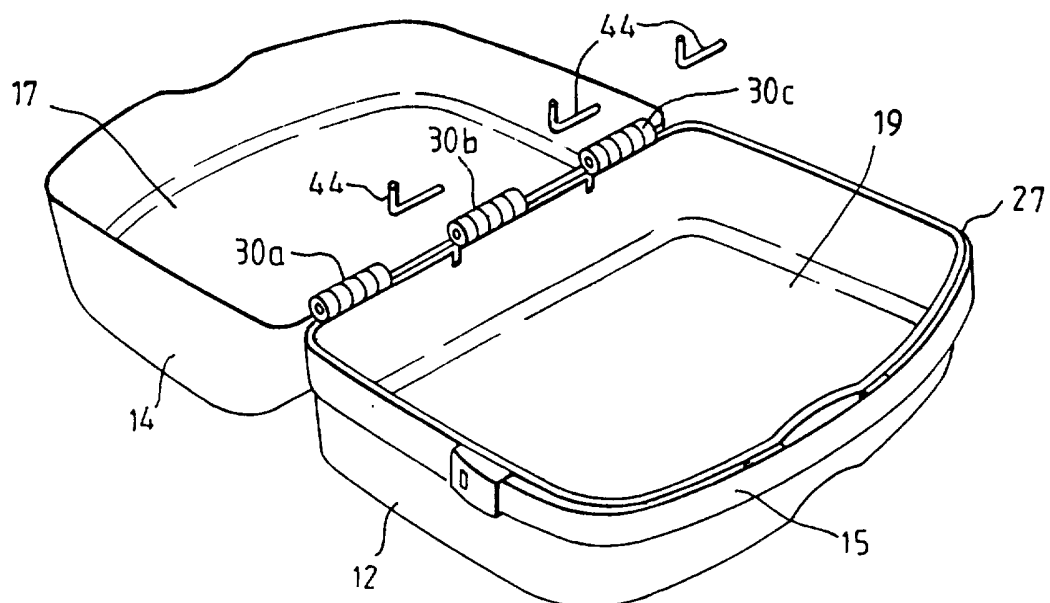


Fig. 3

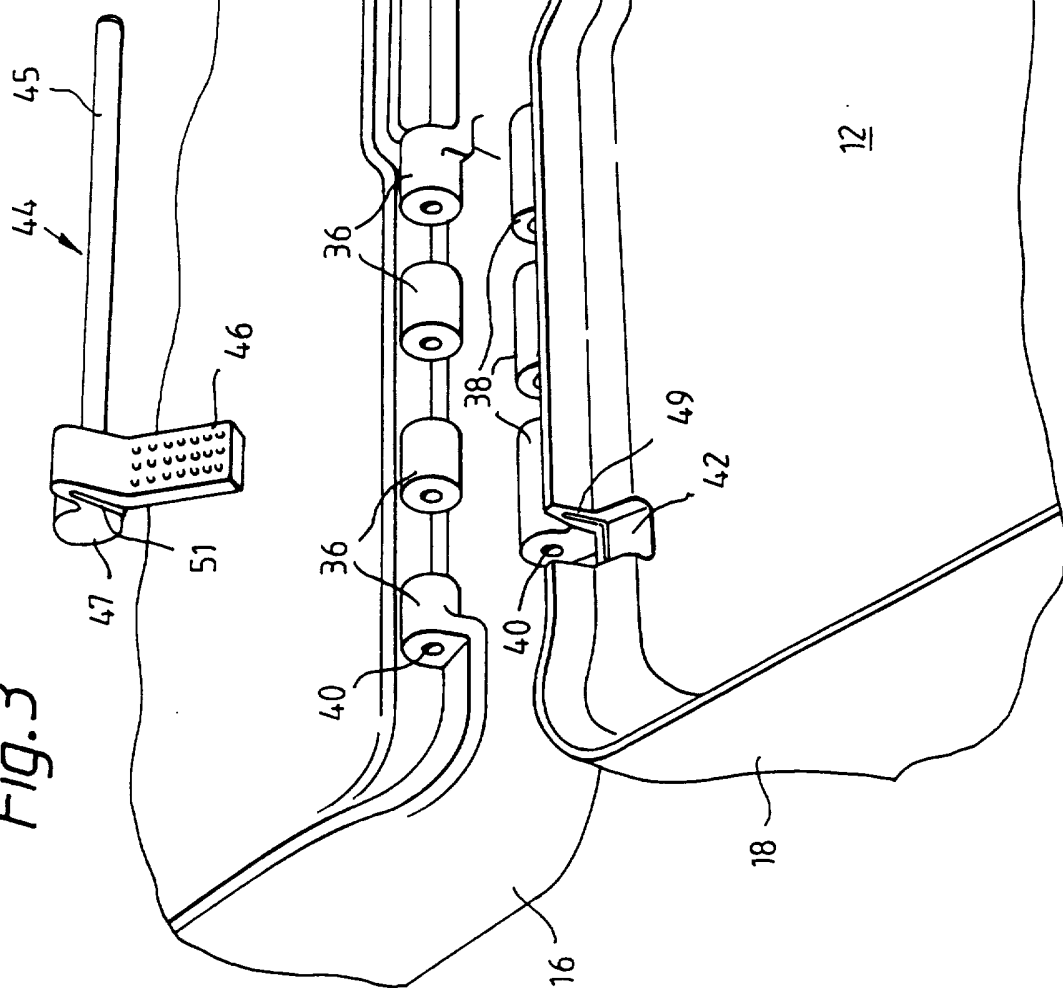


Fig. 8

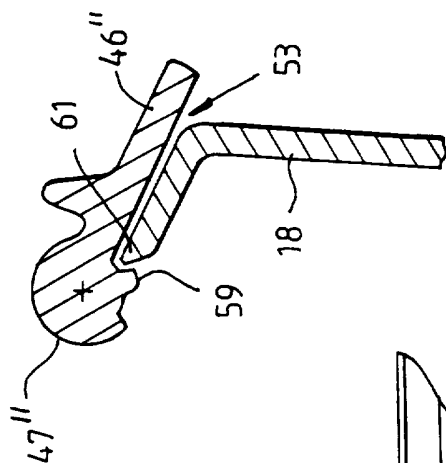


Fig.4

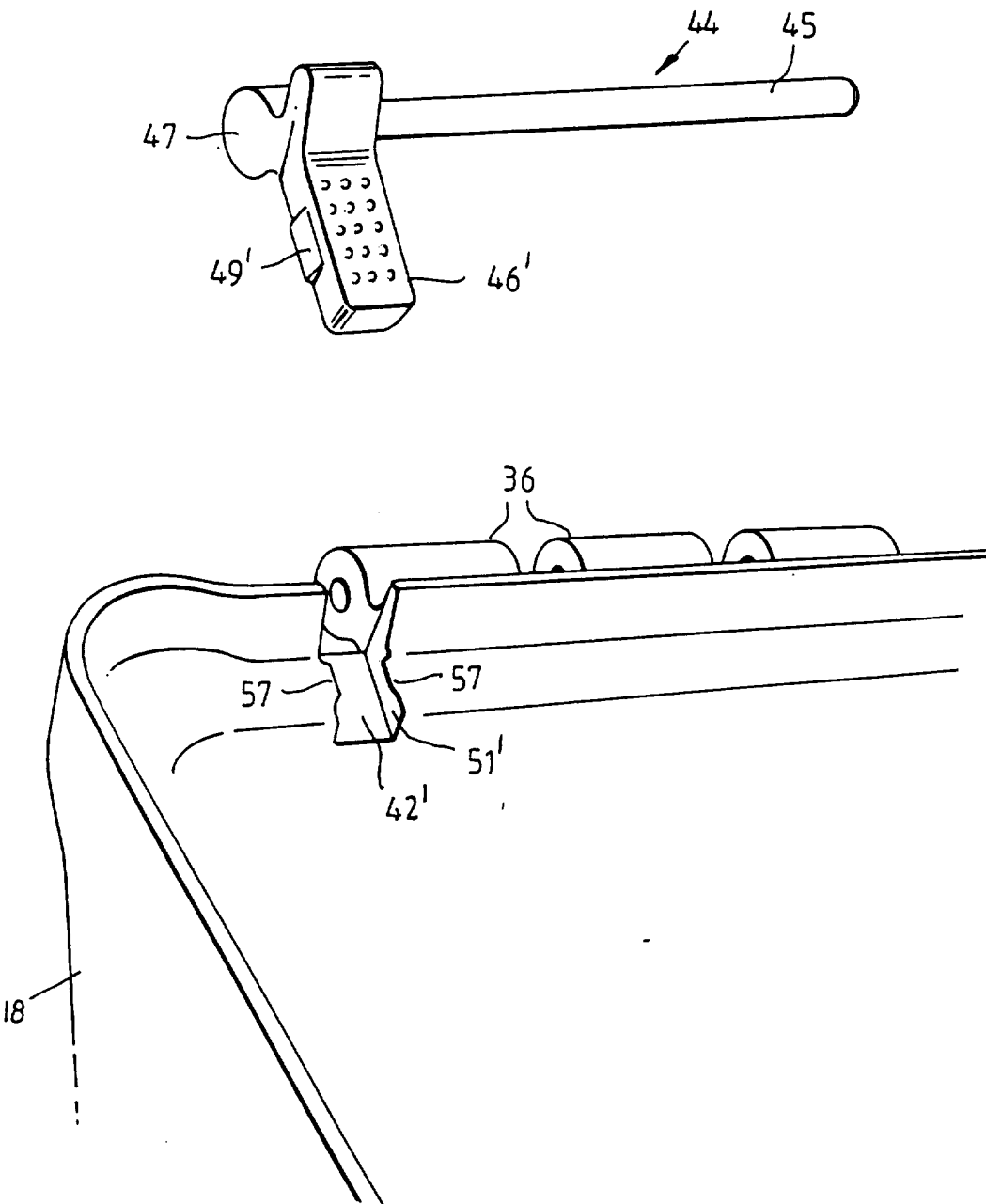


Fig.5

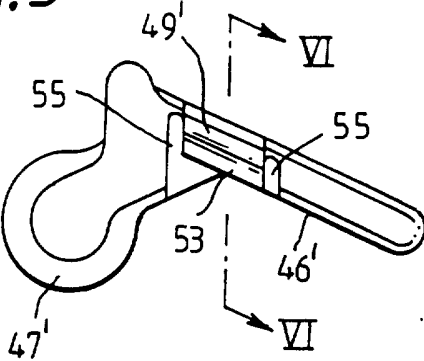


Fig.6

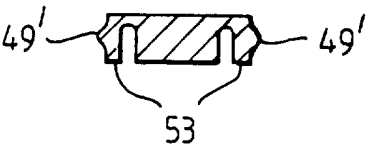
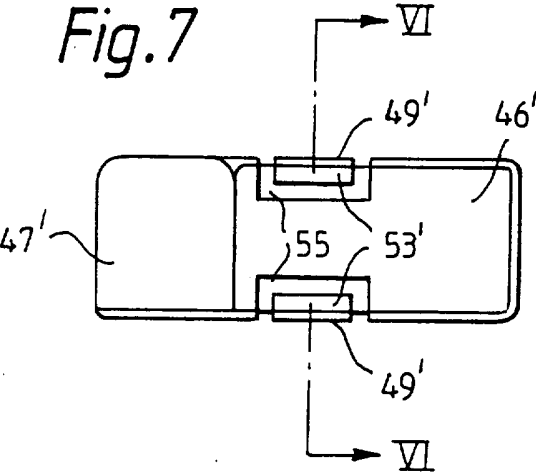


Fig.7



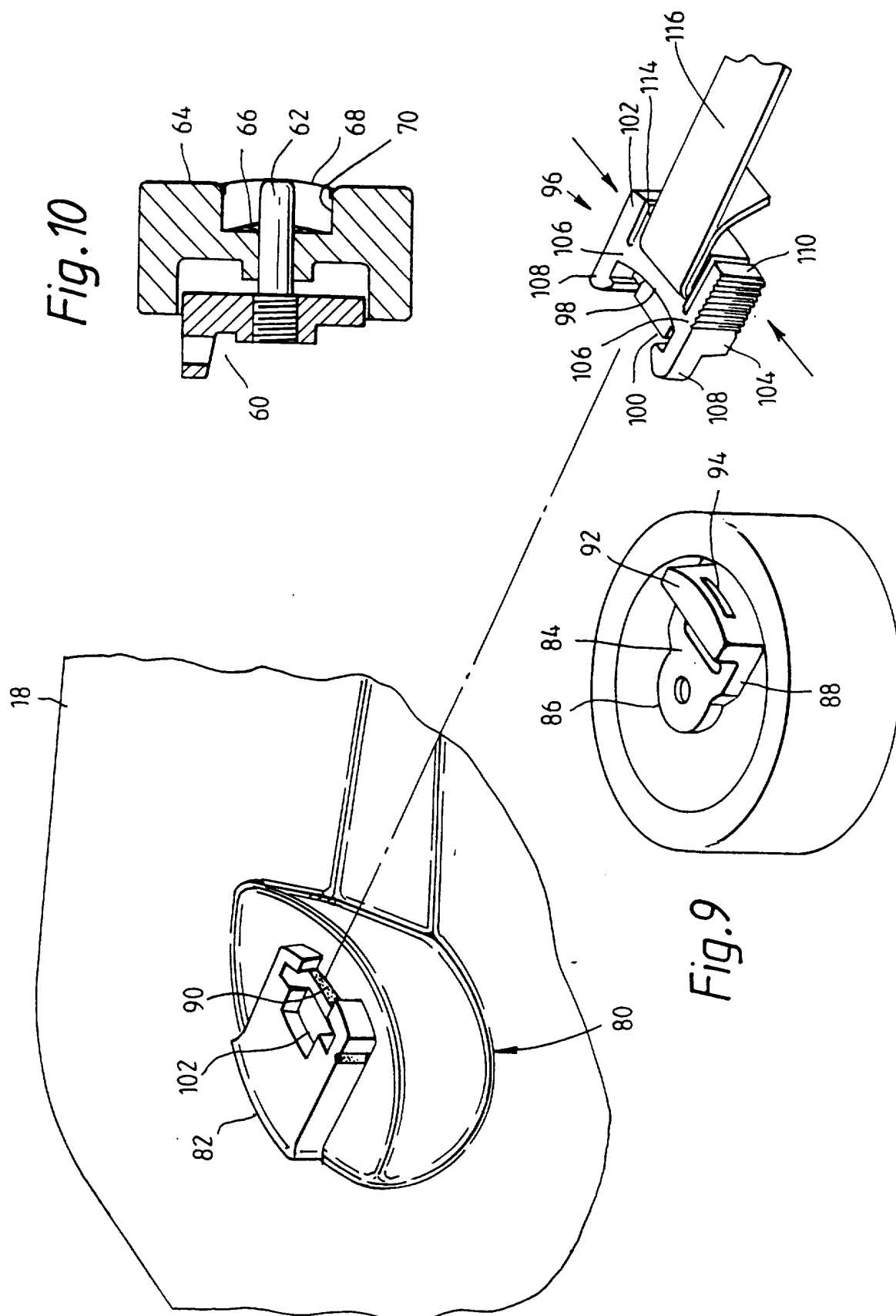


Fig.11

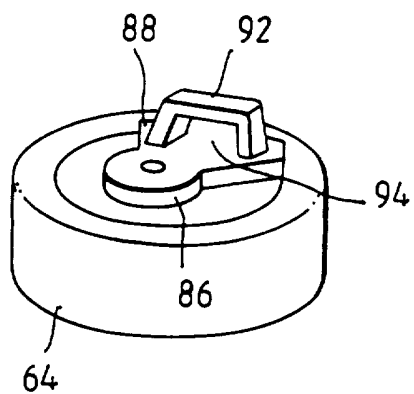


Fig.12

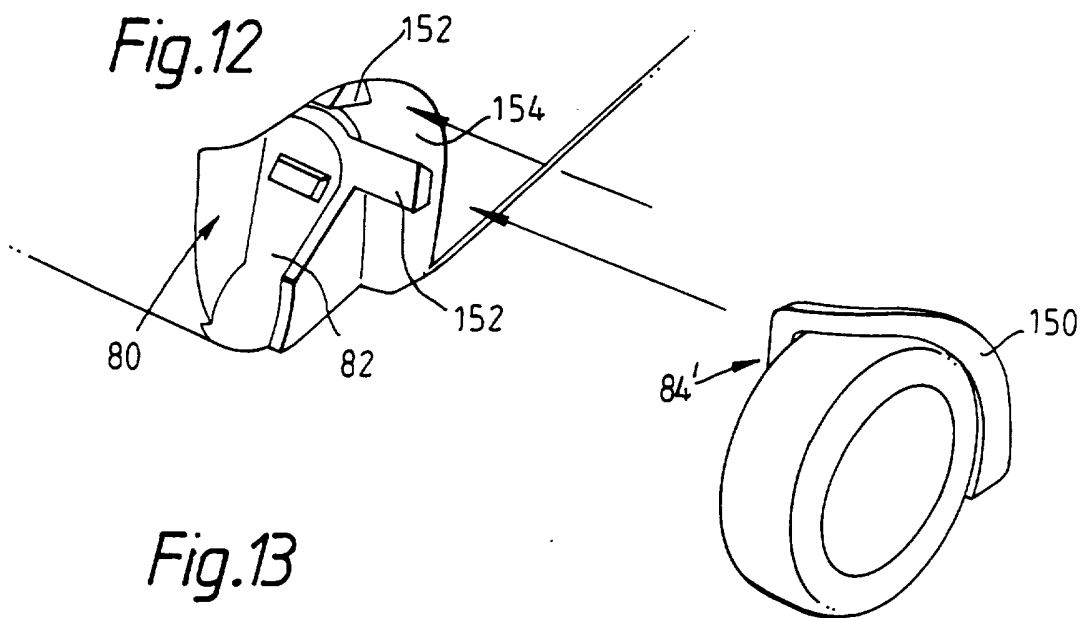
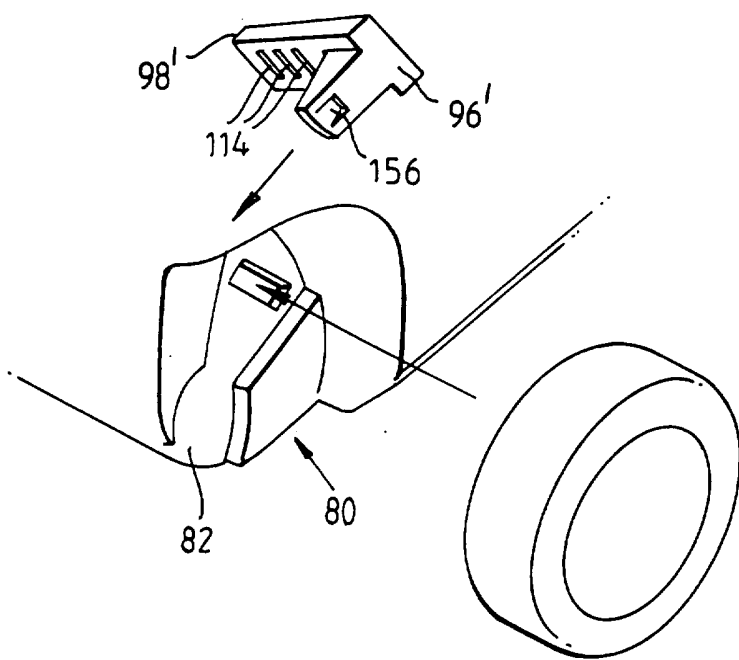
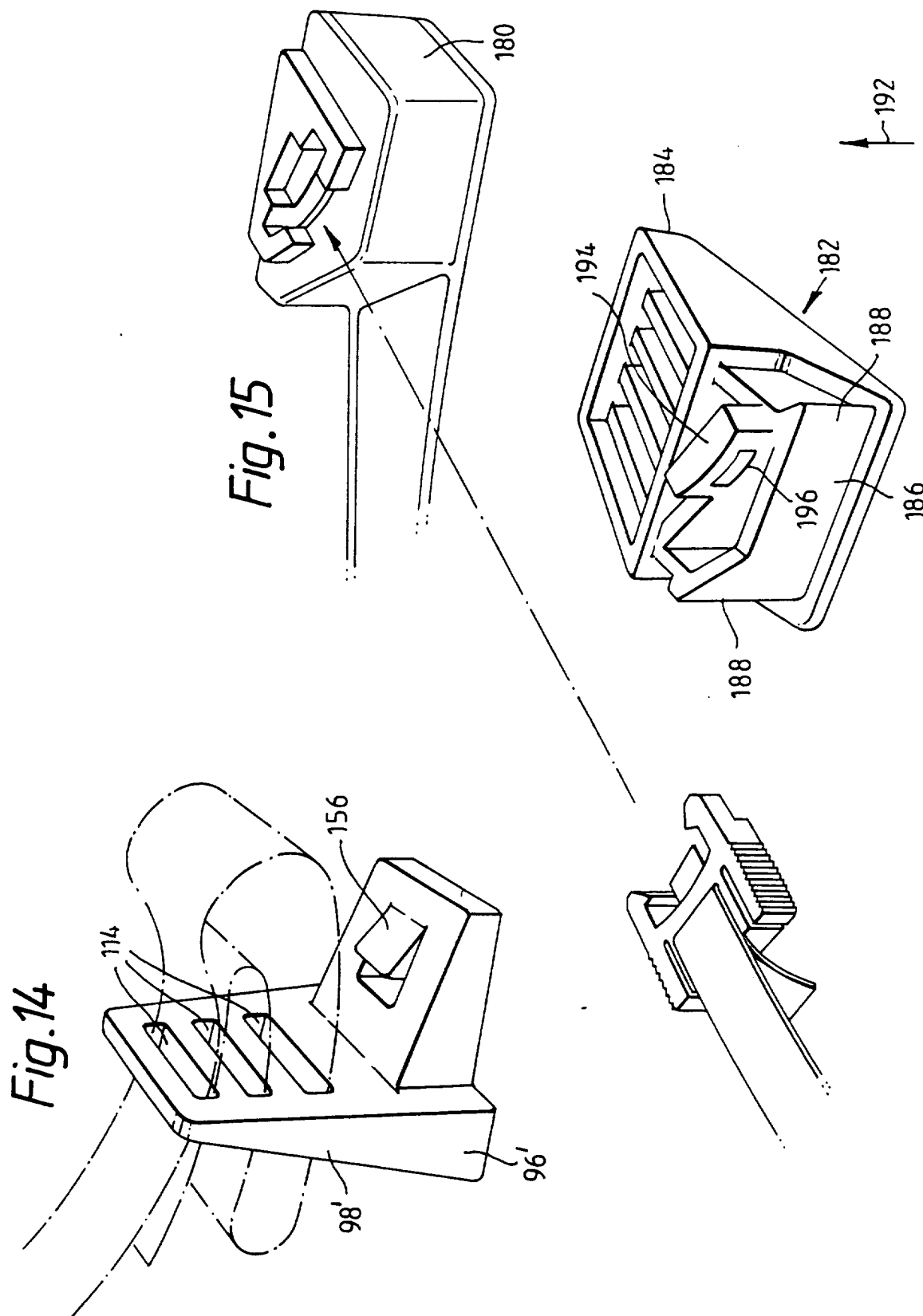


Fig.13





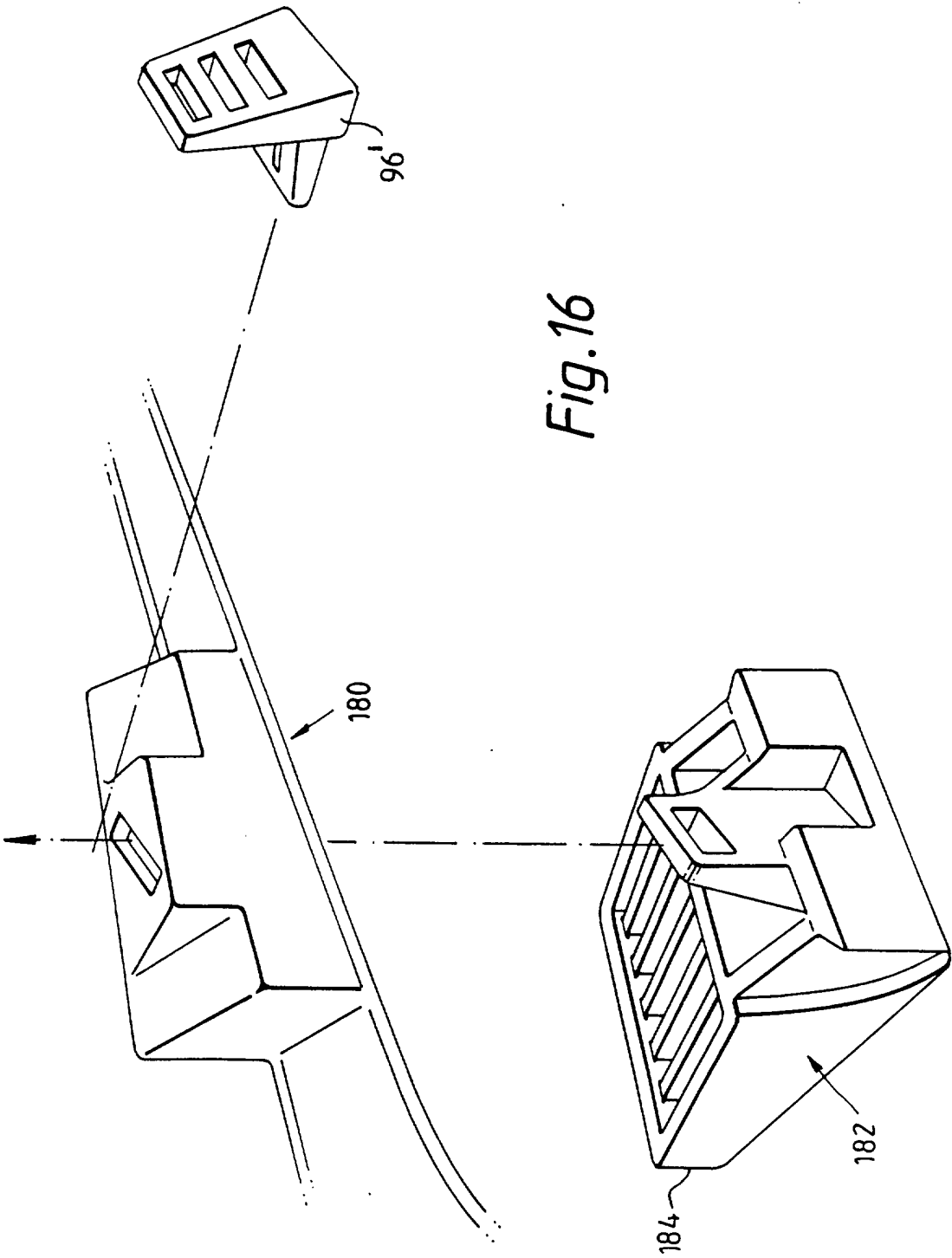
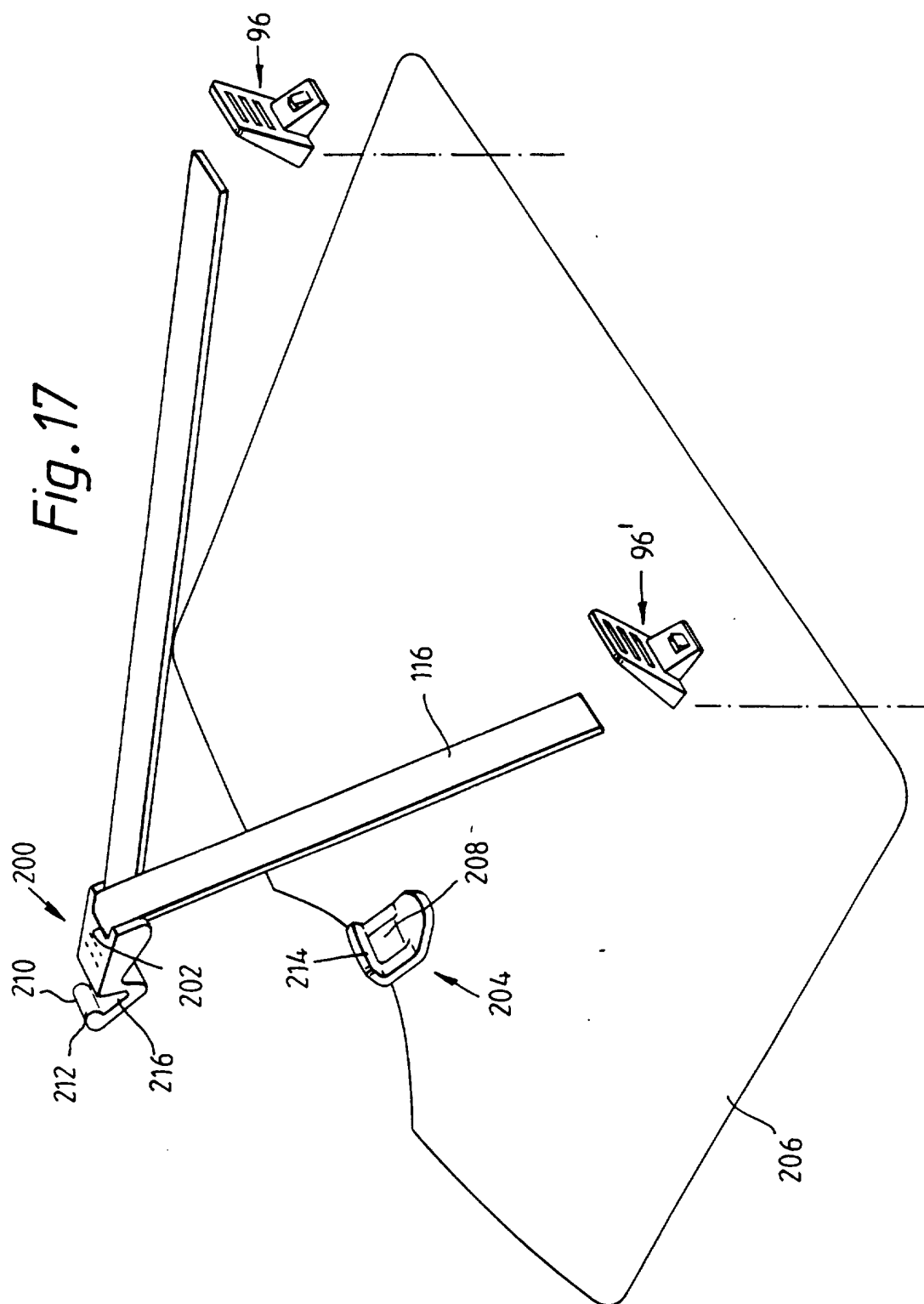


Fig.16



CLAIMS

1. A luggage case comprising two shells, hinged together, an external fitting, and retaining means which includes manually releasable latching means, the external fitting including a mounting portion adapted to fit against a corresponding mounting portion of one of the shells, the mounting portion of the shell including an aperture through the wall of the shell, and the mounting portion of the external fitting including a projection which extends through the aperture in the wall of the case to the inside of the case, and the manually releasable latching means operated from within the luggage case to releasably engage the part of the projection which is inside the shell to retain the mounting portion of the external fitting in position.
2. A luggage case according to claim 1 including a strap for securing luggage inside the case, the retaining means comprising means for anchoring a strap to the inside of the shell of the case.
3. A luggage case according to claim 2 in which the retaining means includes slots for attachment of the strap.
4. A luggage case according to claim 3 in which the recess is of non-circular outline.
5. A luggage case according to claim 1 in which the projection has a transverse opening which receives a portion of the retaining means when the manually releasable latching means is operated by hand from within the case.

6. A luggage case according to claim 5 in which the retaining means includes a tongue which passes through the opening in the projection to retain the mounting portion of the ground-engaging means in position against the outside of the wall of the shell.
7. A luggage case according to claim 7 in which the tongue is wedge-shaped.
8. A luggage case according claim 1 in which the manually releasable latching means engage abutments on the inside of the shell to hold the retaining means in position.
9. A luggage case according to claim 8 in which the manually releasable latching means comprise two resilient pawls.
10. A luggage case according to claim 9 in which the pawls engage notches formed on the inside of the case.
11. A luggage case according to claim 10 in which the pawls are mounted on two lever arms which are pivotally mounted intermediate their ends, the lever arms including gripping portions on opposite ends to the pawls, the pawl ends of the arms being biased toward one another, the pawls being moved away from one another so as to disengage the abutments when the gripping portions of the lever arms are squeezed together.
12. A luggage case according to claim 6 in which the manually releasable latching means comprises a resilient tang which is on a portion of the tongue which can pass through the

opening in the projection and which includes a manually operable detent which engages against a part of the projection alongside the opening to prevent the tongue being withdrawn.

13. A luggage case according to claim 1 in which the fitting is mounted in a reentrant portion on the outside of the shell which faces outwardly along the axis perpendicular to the plane of the major wall of the case and presents no significant undercuts in this direction.

14. A luggage case according to claim 1 in which the projection includes a slot, and the retaining means includes a portion which co-operates with the slot to prevent the projection from being withdrawn through the aperture, and co-operating portions of the retaining means and slot being such that the fitting is progressively pulled more tightly against the shell as the retaining means is inserted into the slot in the projection.

15. A luggage case according to claim 14 in which the said portion of the retaining means is wedge-shaped.

16. A luggage case according to claim 15 in which the manually releasable retaining means includes a manually-releasable resiliently mounted detent, catch or pawl for holding the retaining means in position.

17. A luggage case according to claim 1 in which the external fitting comprises ground engaging means.

18. A luggage case according to claim 17 in which the external fitting is a wheel mounted on an axle which in turn is mounted in a cantilever manner from the mounting portion.

19. A luggage case according to claim 18 in which the axis of the wheel extends generally parallel to the axis of the aperture.

20. A pack for constructing a self-assembly luggage case, the pack including a base shell and a lid shell for the case, and hinge means for connecting the base shell and the lid shell together when the case is assembled, the hinge means comprising a hinge pin for insertion into co-operating hinge butts on the shells when the case is assembled, the hinge pin including a pin portion and a transverse portion, the transverse portion being engageable with locating means on the shell to prevent axial movement of the hinge pin when the transverse portion is engaged with the locating means, and retaining means on the hinge means for co-operating with retaining means on the locating means to prevent accidental displacement of the transverse portion from the locating means.

21. A pack according to claim 20 in which the locating means comprises a slot or recess in the wall of one of the shells for receiving the transverse portion of the hinge means.

22. A pack according to claim 21 in which the retaining means comprise co-operating ridges and grooves on the hinge means.

23. A pack according to claim 21 in which the hinge means includes a barrel portion at one end from which the transverse portion projects, the barrel portion including a projection cooperating with the edge of the case to retain the transverse portion in the slot or recess.