C. FASEL AND W. W. GARLAND.

SUITCASE.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 13, 1920.

1,382,964. **Patented June 28, 1921.**

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

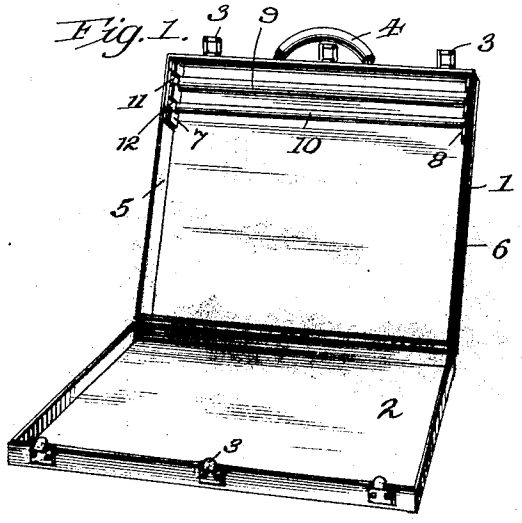


Fig. 2.

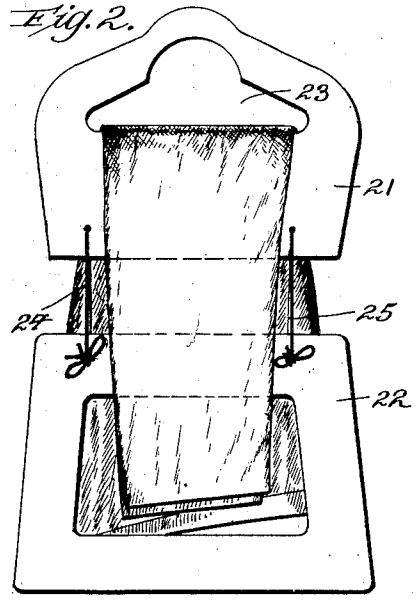


Fig. 3.

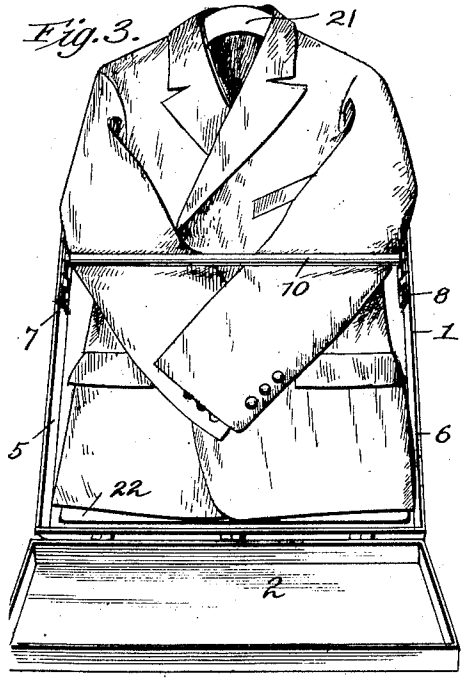
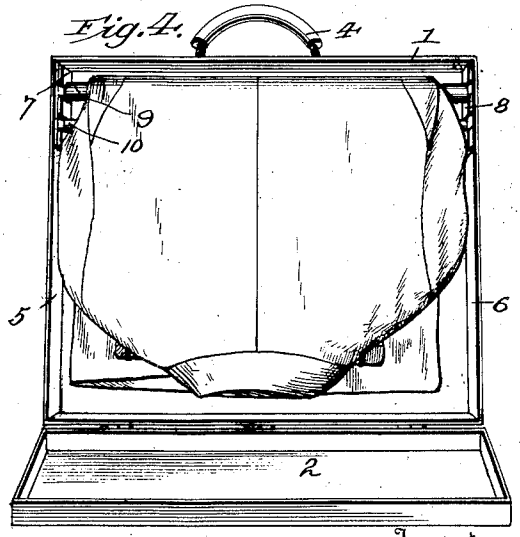


Fig. 4.



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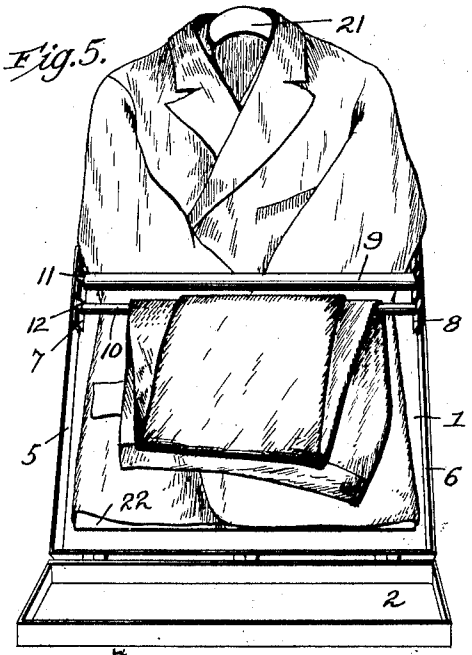
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.



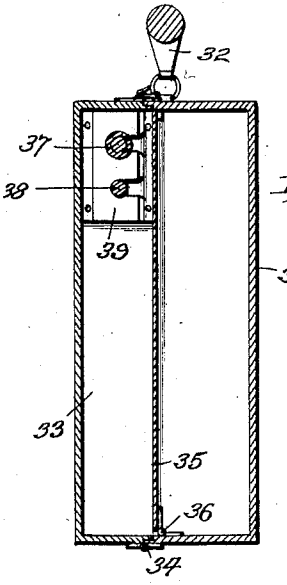


Fig. 10.

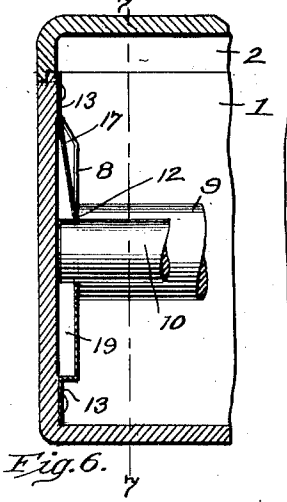


Fig. 6.

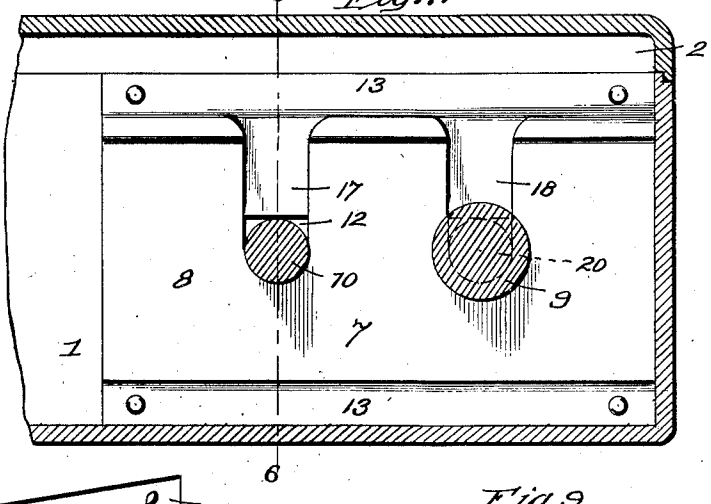


Fig. 7.

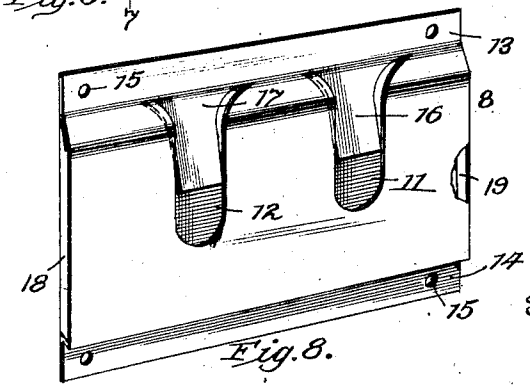


Fig. 8.

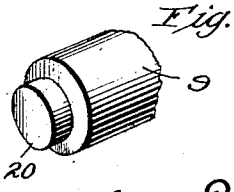


Fig. 9.

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SUITCASE.

1,382,964. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 28, 1921.

Application filed August 13, 1920. Serial No. 403,272.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES FASEL and WILLIAM W. GARLAND, citizens of the United States, residing at Butte, in the county of Silver Bow and State of Montana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Suitcases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved form of suit case particularly designed to carry a suit of clothes, or other garments, in such manner as to insure against wrinkling or creasing thereof, and, in fact, maintain the garments for a long period of time, in as well pressed condition as when received from the tailor.

Although the invention is primarily directed to the provision of a suit case having a single compartment to receive the suit of clothes, it is contemplated that the same may form part of a combination suit case made up to carry a suit in one compartment with a larger compartment, or compartments, for general use, or, if desired, more than one suit compartment may be provided, either without or in combination with a compartment, or compartments for general use.

The invention essentially comprises a suit case having a compartment provided in its upper portion with a cross rod, or rods, from which the several garments comprising a suit, *i. e.*, coat, vest, and trousers in the case of a man's suit, may be suspended. Specially designed rod holders located in the upper corners of the suit compartment and secured to the end walls thereof serve as means for quickly securing the rods in place, and permit of their ready removal when so desired, leaving the suit case free from obstructions and ready to be used for any other purposes desired.

The invention is further characterized by the fact that the garments are not hung in the suit compartment at full length but are intended to be folded over the supporting rods and suspended at a point approximately midway of their length, thereby materially reducing the size of the suit case. This manner of suspending the garments is a distinct advantage over the usual method of hanging the garment right side up on a hanger with the bottom of the garment folded back up and secured with clamps, straps and various other means which tend to compress the garments and cause undesirable creasing.

While the invention will be described with particular reference to its use for carrying men's suits, it will be readily seen that it is equally adapted for ladies' suits or any other garments desired to be carried without unnecessary folding and the resulting wrinkling or creasing of the garments.

In order to assist in and assure the proper folding of the suit, use is made of certain forms made of wood, card board or other suitable material. These forms further serve to prevent the garments from jamming down into one end of the case as when the same is shipped by express, stood on end, or otherwise roughly handled.

Other and further advantages of the invention will appear upon reference to the following description, and the accompanying drawings, wherein like numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:—

Figure 1 represents a perspective of the open suitcase with the suit removed and the hanger rods in place;

Fig. 2 the trousers in place on the forms without the coat or vest, preliminary to placing the suit in the suit case;

Fig. 3 the suit on the forms and in the position in which it is placed in the suit case, behind one of the hanger rods and before it is folded down;

Fig. 4, the suit folded down in place ready for the lid of the suit case to be closed;

Fig. 5, a view showing another manner of hanging the suit in the case, use being made of the second hanger rod to support the trousers outside the coat and vest;

Fig. 6, a fragmentary sectional view taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 7, showing the manner in which the hanger rods are supported in the rod holders at the ends of the case;

Fig. 7, a fragmentary sectional view taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8, a perspective of one of the rod holders removed from the suit case;

Fig. 9, a fragmentary perspective of one end of the larger hanger rod, and

Fig. 10, a transverse sectional view of a two compartment suit case with the invention applied thereto.

The suit-case proper, as shown in Figs. 1, 3, 4, and 5, comprises a body section 1 and a lid section 2 hinged together at their lower edges in the usual manner. At their upper ends the sections may be provided with the usual catches 3 or other suitable devices for

securing the sections in closed position. A handle 4 provides for carrying the suit case. As shown in these figures, the suit case is made of a size designed to carry a single suit of clothes, and of suitable inside width to prevent packing the folds of the garments so closely when the suit case is closed as to cause undesirable creasing.

Located in the upper corners of section 1 and secured by riveting or other suitable means to the inner faces of end members 5 and 6 are rod holders 7 and 8 adapted to receive the ends of hanger rods 9 and 10, upon which the suit is hung. These rod holders are duplicates, each preferably being stamped from a single sheet of metal. Enlarged views of rod holder 8 are shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8. Each holder is provided with duplicate slots 11 and 12, either of which is adapted to receive the end of rods 9 or 10. Depending portions 13 and 14 of the rod holder serve to form a base for the same in which are provided holes 15 for riveting the rod holder in place. Extending from base portion 13 a suitable distance into slots 11 and 12 respectively are inclined spring tongues 16 and 17. Depending portions 18 and 19 serve to form the ends of the rod holder.

Hanger rod 10 is made of uniform diameter throughout its length and corresponds to the width of slots 11 and 12 in the rod holders. Rod 9, however, is of larger diameter, for a purpose later explained, while the ends thereof, one of which is shown in Fig. 9, are provided with reduced portions 20 corresponding with the width of slots 11 and 12 of the rod holders 7 and 8. Thus, it will be seen, rods 9 and 10 may be used interchangeably, rod 9 being placed in the upper slots 11 and rod 10 in the lower slots 12 of the rod holders, or vice versa; as desired. Each rod is secured in place by simply placing the ends of the same above the open ends of the desired pair of slots, whereupon a slight downward pressure on the rod will serve to force the ends thereof past the spring tongues and into the lower ends of the slots, the spring tongues bending downwardly to permit passage of the rod ends and then springing back into position to firmly hold the rod in place, as clearly shown in Figs. 6 and 7. In order to remove a rod, one spring tongue is held in depressed position by means of the finger and the end of the rod raised, whereupon the rod may readily be removed.

Referring to Fig. 2, there are shown the forms 21 and 22 on which the suit is placed before being hung in the suit case. The upper form 21 has an opening 23 through which the trousers are hung, while form 22 serves to assist in folding the lower part of the coat in proper position after the coat and vest are hung on form 21 over the trousers. These forms may be tied together by means of strings 24, 25, passing through suitable perforations therein, or by other suitable means, and adjusted to the proper length of any suit.

In use, rods 9 and 10 are first removed from rod holders 7 and 8 as heretofore explained. Forms 21 and 22 having been adjusted to the proper length by means of strings 24, 25, the trousers are hung through opening 23 of form 21, as shown in Fig. 2. The vest and coat are then hung on form 21 and placed in the suit case, as shown in Fig. 3. One of the hanger rods is then placed across the suit and secured in rod holders 7 and 8, and the suit folded down so that the fold comes as nearly in the center as possible as shown on Fig. 4. When the three parts of the suit are hung on the forms with the trousers inside, and it is therefore necessary to use only one of the hanger rods 9, 10, to hang the suit in the case, rod 10 is the more desirable as it is of smaller diameter than rod 9, and hence will permit a fold of less thickness to be formed in the suit than if rod 9 were used, thus precluding any likelihood of pressure from the sides of the suitcase.

With the above described method, only one of the two rods 9, 10, is used. Fig. 5 shows another method of carrying the suit, use being made of both rods. With this method, the coat and vest only are hung on forms 21, 22, and placed in the suit case, as shown in Fig. 3, rod 9 being used in the upper slots 11 of rod holders 7, 8, instead of rod 10. The trousers are then folded in the middle and laid flat on the coat, rod 10 then being secured in position in the lower slots 12 of the rod hangers for hanging the trousers. The trousers are then folded over rod 10, as shown in Fig. 5, and the upper part of the coat and vest folded down, as in Fig. 4. It will thus be seen that this arrangement eliminates the thickness of the double fold of the trousers from being inside the coat and vest, which tends to make the suit quite thick where it folds over the upper rod and may cause some slight creases. Furthermore, the use of a rod of smaller diameter inside the coat, prevents the folded trousers from causing any undesirable bulging of the coat and consequent pressure from the walls of the case.

When the suit case is intended to be carried, or where it is not likely to be subjected to any severe tumbling or throwing around, forms 21, 22 may be entirely eliminated, the coat and vest being folded, as shown in Fig. 3, and upper rod 9 placed in position. The trousers are then folded and secured in position on rod 10, as described above with reference to Fig. 5, and the coat and vest folded down, as in Fig. 4.

It is intended that rod holders 7, 8 and

the slots 11, 12 therein shall be so designed and the holders so located in the suit case as to support rods 9, 10 substantially midway between the side walls of the compartment, so that when the suit is placed on the rods it will hang centrally within the case.

Fig. 10, shows the invention embodied in a two compartment combination suit case, the same in general comprising a body section 31 having a handle 32 and a cover section 33, said sections being hinged together at 34. A partition 35 connected by hinges 36 at its lower edge to body section 31, allows the body section 31 to be used for general purposes, while lid section 33 provided with rods 37, 38 and rod holders 39, similar to those described with reference to the single compartment suit case, serves as a separate compartment in which a suit may be hung as hereinbefore explained.

A suit of clothes folded and hung in this suit case by either of the methods described, while a very simple matter and requiring no special care, will remain in splendidly pressed condition and may be kept in the suit case for long periods of time and carried great distances and yet be in perfect condition to wear when removed for use.

It is to be understood that the term "suit case," as used in the description and appended claims, is intended to include, not only the usual hand receptacle, but any case, compartment, trunk, or other receptacle in which it may be desired to provide means for carrying a suit of clothes in the manner herein set forth, also wherever the terms "coat and vest" or "trousers" are used the same shall include the corresponding garments of a lady's suit or any other similar piece of wearing apparel.

What we claim is:—

1. In combination with a suitcase, a hanger rod located in the upper portion thereof over which a coat and vest may be folded; means for detachably securing said rod in place; a form around which the upper portion of said coat and vest may be folded; and a second form around which the lower portion of said coat and vest may be folded.

2. In combination with a suitcase, a hanger rod located in the upper portion thereof over which a coat and vest may be folded; means for detachably securing said rod in place; a form around which the upper portion of said coat and vest may be folded; a second form around which the lower portion of said coat and vest may be folded; and adjustable means connecting said forms.

3. In combination with a suitcase, a hanger rod located in the upper portion thereof over which a coat and vest may be folded; a second hanger rod located beneath said first mentioned rod and from which a pair of trousers may be hung; means for detachably securing said rods in place; a form around which the upper portion of said coat and vest may be folded; and a second form around which the lower portion of said coat and vest may be folded.

4. In combination with a suitcase, a hanger rod located in the upper portion thereof over which a coat and vest may be folded; a second rod located directly beneath said first mentioned rod over which a pair of trousers may be folded whereby the garments may be nested; and means for removably supporting said rods in place.

5. A suit case comprising two hinged together sections; rod holders located in the upper corners of one of said sections; a removable hanger rod adapted to be held in place by said holders; and a second removable rod of smaller diameter adapted to be held in place by said rod holders in a position directly beneath said first rod whereby the garments may be nested.

6. In combination with a suitcase, rod holders located in the upper corners thereof and attached to the ends of the case; and a hanger rod supported at its ends in said rod holders, said holders having slots to receive the ends of the rod and inclined spring tongues located in said slots to secure said rod in place.

7. In combination with a suitcase, rod holders located in the upper corners thereof and attached to the ends of the case; a hanger rod supported at its ends in said holders; a second hanger rod located beneath said first mentioned rod and supported at its ends in the holders; said rod holders having slots to receive the ends of said rods and inclined spring tongues located in said slots to retain said rods in place.

8. In combination with a suit case, a hanger rod located in the upper portion thereof over which a suit may be folded substantially midway of its length; means for detachably securing said rod in place; a form around which the upper portion of the coat and vest may be folded, said form being provided with an opening to receive the trousers; and a second form around which the lower portion of the coat and vest may be folded.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification.

CHARLES FASEL.
WILLIAM W. GARLAND.