Oct. 2, 1945. W. H. BRACKEN 2,385,910

WARDROBE TRUNK

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Fig. 1

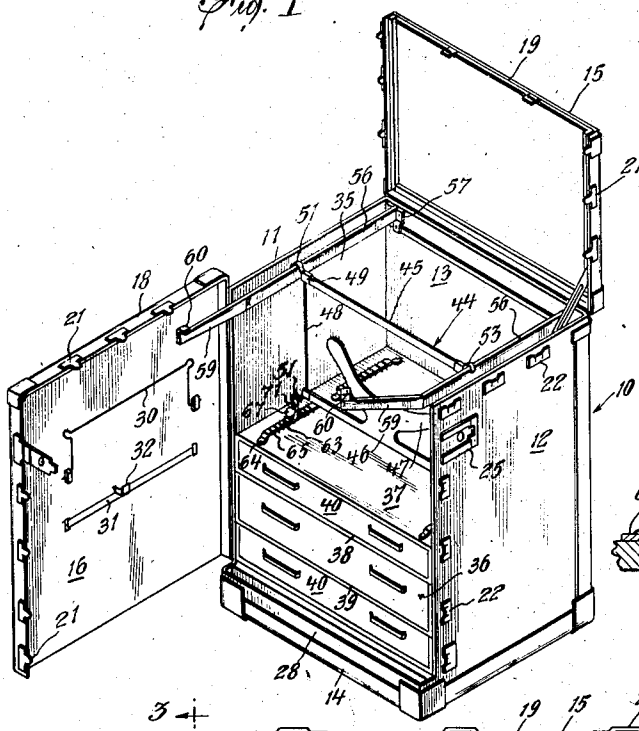


Fig. 6

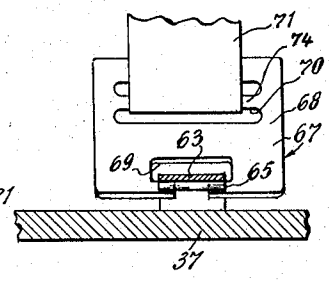


Fig. 5

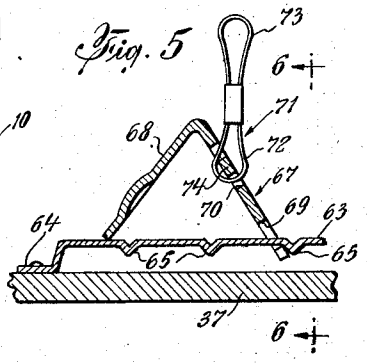
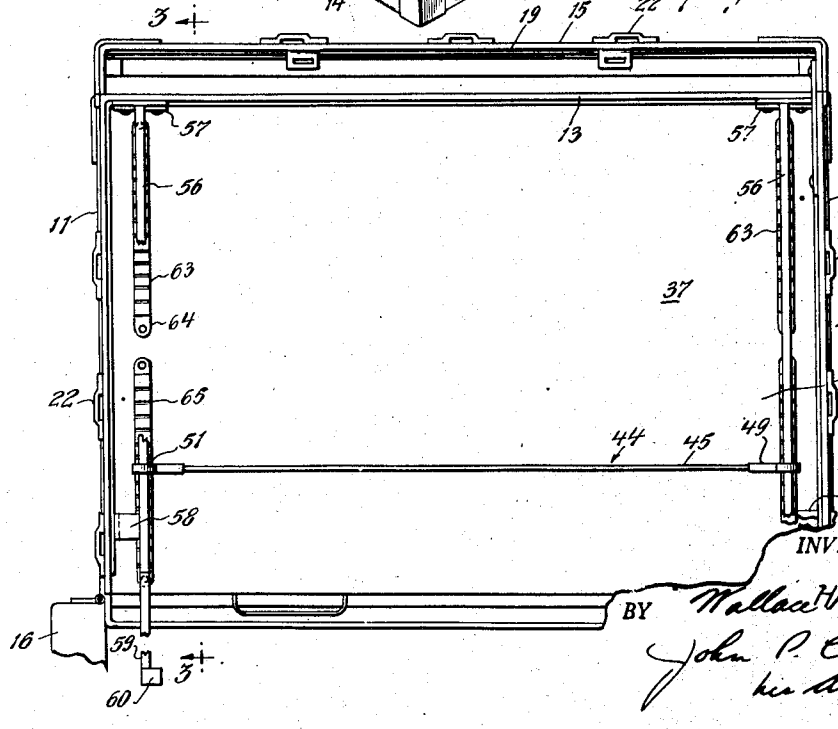


Fig. 2



INVENTOR.

BY Wallace H. Bracken

John P. Chandler

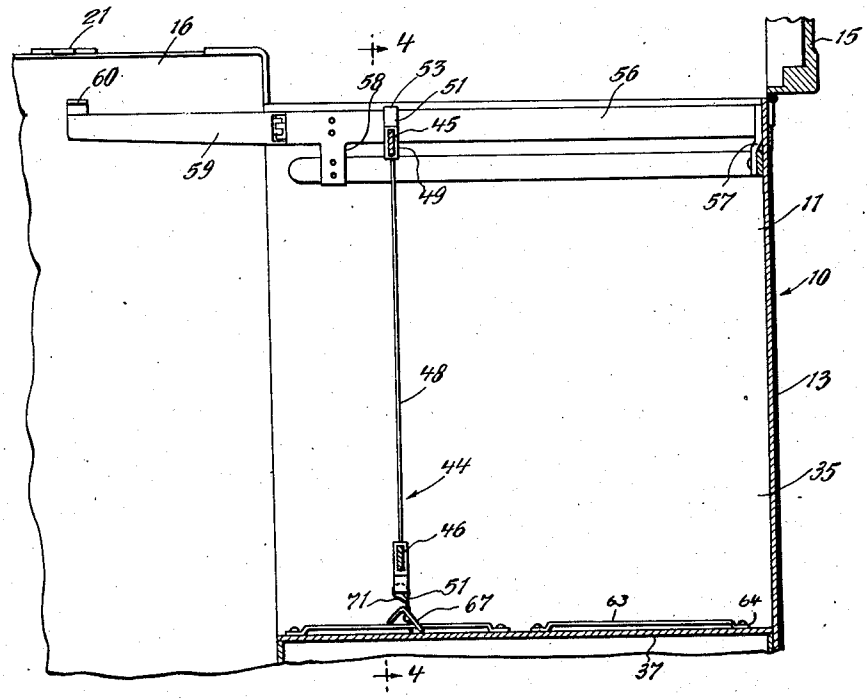
his Attorney

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Fig. 3



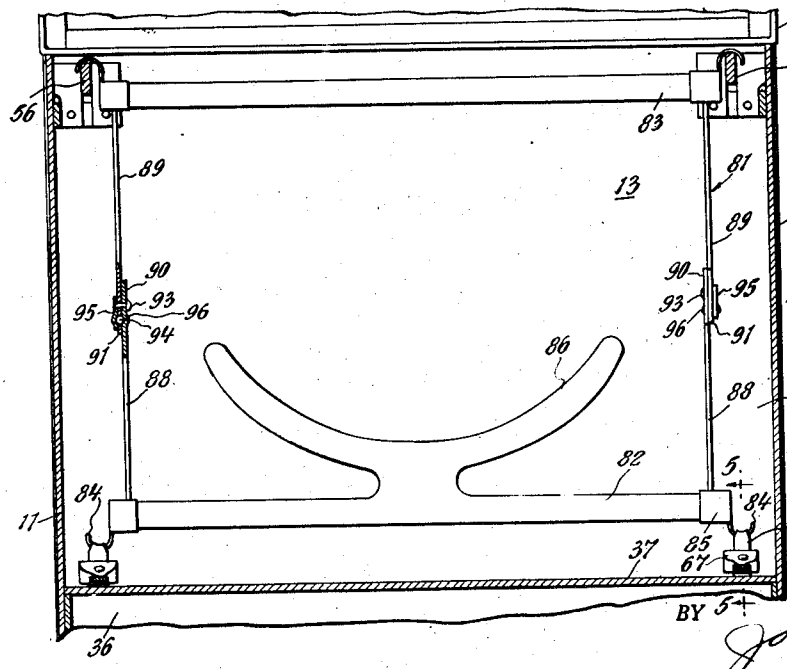


Fig. 4

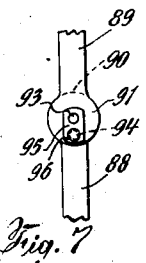


Fig. 7

INVENTOR.
Wallace H. Bracken
BY John P. Chandler
his Attorney

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2,385,910

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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WARDROBE TRUNK

Wallace H. Bracken, Rye, N. Y.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 190—13)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in wardrobe trunks, and relates more particularly to a novel trunk having a plurality of superimposed sections, one containing a number of drawers for carrying accessories or smaller articles of apparel such as shirts, underwear, stockings, and the like, and the other having special body-garment-supporting means.

Wardrobe trunks of the art usually provide a body-garment-carrying section extending the full depth of the trunk when such trunk is in upright position, hangers being suitably supported at the upper end of the trunk, and the garments are thus permitted to hang downwardly. This arrangement is not economical for the reason that sufficient depth must be provided for garments of the maximum length and unused space results when shorter garments are packed. These trunks are normally formed with a similarly shaped section which is hinged to the body-garment-carrying section, and which is provided with drawers. In trunks of this character the two sections are difficult to open and close when completely packed with garments.

Another objection to this type of wardrobe trunk resides in the fact that no suitable intermediate support can be provided for the opposed side walls of the body-garment section, and the result is a very shaky structure after a relatively short period of use of the kind that trunks are normally subjected to.

It is one of the principal objects of the present invention to provide a trunk formed with a plurality of superimposed sections, the lowermost section having a plurality of drawers for accessories and smaller articles of wearing apparel, and wherein the drawer-supporting means strengthens and rigidifies the trunk structure as a whole, and particularly the upper garment-carrying section. Easy access to the trunk is provided by means of a single, horizontally-hinged door normally closing the entire upper end of the trunk, and a second, vertically-hinged front door extending from the upper edge of the trunk down to a point spaced from, but adjacent to, the bottom thereof. The opening of this latter door makes both sections instantly accessible without the strict necessity of opening the upper door.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an improved garment-carrying frame for a wardrobe trunk and a particularly novel means of positively supporting a plurality of such frames at the upper and at the lower ends thereof. More specifically, the upper end of the body-garment section includes means for suspending from their upper ends a plurality of such frames and for engaging the lower ends thereof, urging them against the rear wall of the trunk, and thus preventing pendulous movement when the number of garments is insufficient to fill the entire section.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide garment-carrying means for wardrobe trunks and the like wherein body garments may be quickly placed thereon without danger of wrinkling.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the view showing the front and top doors of the trunk in open position.

Fig. 2 is a broken top plan view of the structure shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a broken vertical section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a broken section showing a modified form of garment-carrying frame.

Fig. 5 is a broken vertical section taken through the retaining means for the lower end of the garment-supporting frames, such section lying on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a broken section taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a broken plan view of a portion of the frame shown in Fig. 4.

The trunk constituting the preferred embodiment of the present invention is generally rectangular in shape, and is designated by the reference numeral 10. It includes opposed side walls 11 and 12, a rear wall 13, a bottom wall 14, an upper hinged cover 15 closing the otherwise open upper end of the trunk, and a front, vertically-hinged cover 16. In accordance with the arrangement shown in Fig. 1, the upper hinged cover 15 is adapted to be lowered into engagement with the upper marginal edges of the trunk, and thereafter the front hinged cover 16 is moved into closed position, the upper flanged edge 18 thereof enclosing the outer or free marginal edge 19 of cover 15.

Covers 15 and 16 are formed with a plurality of spaced, male interlocking members 21 which are received in, and which cooperate with, a plurality of spaced female members 22 positioned along the marginal edges of opposed side walls 11 and 12 of the trunk. Front cover 16 is further provided with a hinged lock 24 which cooperates with an apertured plate 25 secured to side wall 12. The body of the trunk further in-

cludes a shallow front wall 28 extending upwardly from lower wall 14, and the area between the upper edge of front wall 28 and the upper edge of the trunk is closed by means of the front hinged cover 16. The inner surface of the cover 16 further includes a substantially U shaped tie and scarf supporting element 30, the lower ends of the ties and the like (not shown) being retained in substantial engagement with the inner surface of cover 16 by means of a pair of straps 31 having cooperating buckle elements 32 at their inner ends.

The trunk is divided into a body-garment-carrying section 35 and a drawer section 36, the two sections being divided by means of a horizontal partition 37, the opposed end portions of which are rigidly secured by any suitable means to the inner surfaces of opposed side walls 11 and 12 substantially midway between their upper and lower ends. Between horizontal partition 37 and lower wall 14 a plurality of additional partitions 38 and 39 are also secured at their opposite terminals to side walls 11 and 12, and a plurality of drawers 40 are removably positioned between each adjacent pair of horizontal partitions. It will thus be apparent that since such horizontal partitions 37, 38 and 39 are firmly secured to opposed side walls 11 and 12 and to rear wall 13, the entire trunk, and particularly the side walls thereof, are much more rigid than the usual wardrobe trunks wherein the opposed side walls receive their major support at the upper and lower edges thereof.

The depth of upper or body-garment-carrying section 35 is considerably less than is usual in wardrobe trunks, but such reduced depth, nevertheless, provides ample space for the carrying of body garments by virtue of the novel frame or hanger structure designated generally by the reference numeral 44 carried in such section in the manner now to be described.

Each garment-supporting frame 44 illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 includes an upper rail 45, a lower rail 46 provided with a coat or shoulder-supporting section 47, and vertical supports 48 which maintain upper and lower rails 45 and 46, respectively, in their spaced relation. The vertical supports of this embodiment are desirably formed from relatively rigid metal rods which are received at their opposite terminals in metal ferrules 49, which are rigidly secured at the opposite ends of upper and lower rails 45 and 46. Formed integrally with each ferrule, or suitably secured to the same, is an outwardly extending, substantially C shaped supporting bracket or hook 51.

When a man's suit coat is carried on frame 44, such frame will occupy the position shown in Fig. 1, wherein rail 46 having the coat-supporting portion 47 will be positioned downwardly, the coat passing over the upper edge of upper rail 45 and hanging downwardly on the opposite side thereof. When, however, a longer man's garment, such as a topcoat, or a lady's dress is carried thereon, rail 46 with coat-supporting portions 47 will be positioned upwardly, and the garment is folded twice around the rails.

It will be noted from an examination of Figs. 1 and 3 that the upper surface 53 of the hook portions 51 secured at opposite ends of rail 45 extend above the upper edge of such upper rail 45. The same is true of the lower surface of hook portions 51 secured at opposite ends of lower rail 46, when viewed as in Fig. 1. Thus, when rail 46 occupies the lowermost position, garments passing over the lower edge thereof will be nevertheless held in spaced relation to horizontal partition 37. Each garment-supporting frame 44 is supported at its upper end on a track 56 which is mounted in spaced relation to the inner surface of side wall 11 and side wall 12 by means of brackets 57 and 58. The outer or free end of each track 56 is provided with a hinged extension 59 so that when the trunk is in open position, as shown in Fig. 1, these hinged extensions may move outwardly until they are in alignment with tracks 56, and thus hanger structures 44 may be moved outwardly beyond the front wall of the trunk. When the trunk is to be closed, however, the hinged extensions 59 are moved inwardly, and are joined together at their free ends by means of cooperating locking elements 60.

Regardless of the size or weight of the body garment carried on the several frame structures 44, ample support for the same is provided by means of the upper hook portions 51 which are suspended on the tracks 56. In the event that the combined thickness of the several hanger structures or frames 44, together with the clothes carried thereon, is sufficient to completely fill the upper body-garment-carrying section 35 from rear wall 13 to front hinged cover 16, no support for the lower terminals of the frame structure is required, since any pendulous movement of such lower ends is effectively prevented by the opposed walls when the trunk is closed. In many instances, however, the section will not be completely filled, and to prevent any movement whatsoever of the frame structures and the garments carried thereon, the following novel means are provided for securing the lower end of the outermost frame structure against forward movement, and when such structure is moved to its maximum rearward position, the remaining structures are all urged rearwardly.

Such means comprise one or a plurality of bars 63 having offset end portions 64 which are secured to the upper surface of horizontal partition 37 adjacent to, but spaced from, each side wall 11 and 12, respectively. Thus, the entire length of each bar 63, except for its terminal portions, is spaced from the upper surface of such partition 37, and the lower surface of each bar is formed with a plurality of spaced transverse ribs 65. A securing element 67, having an angular extension 68, is provided at its lower end with a substantially T shaped recess 69 which receives the bar 63 in the manner shown in Fig. 6. The element 67 is further provided with a plurality of transverse slots 70 which receive strap members 71. The detail of each strap member is shown in Fig. 5, and includes loop portions 72 and 73, loop portion 72 being received in the cross-piece 74 formed between slots 70. Upper loop 73 receives the lower hook portion 51 in the manner shown in Fig. 1.

After the several garment frames 44 carrying the body garments have been placed in the upper section, and such frames supported on tracks 56 in the manner previously described, the outermost frame is moved rearwardly until the successive frames between outermost frame and rear wall 13 are compressed relatively tightly. Uppermost loop 73 of the supporting element 67 is then placed upon lower hook portion 51 of the frame and the supporting element moved rearwardly. During such rearward movement, when the lower end of the T shaped slot 69 encounters one of the transverse ribs 65, as shown in Fig.

5, slight pressure from the upper end of the securing element causes the lower end of the element to ride below the transverse rib. When the element is moved to its maximum rearward position, forward movement is prevented by engagement with the opposite side of any given rib **65**. One continuous bar **63** may be provided on each side of horizontal partition **37**, although it is preferred to form two discontinuous bars, as shown particularly in Fig. 3.

A slightly modified frame or garment-supporting structure **81** is illustrated in Figs. 4 and 7. This structure includes the spaced, horizontal rails **82** and **83** of the first embodiment, as well as the hook portions **84**, formed on the ferrules **85**. Rail **82** includes a coat-hanger portion **86**. In this instance, however, the vertical supports are hinged at their centers to permit the portion of the device having the coat hanger **86** to lie flat, while the coat is being adjusted into position thereon, and the other half of the device may occupy an upright position.

Thus, each vertical support comprises flat bars **88** and **89** formed with generally circular, flat, inner terminal portions **90** and **91**, respectively. A pivot pin **93** passes through the centers of the circular terminal portions. Both of these circular portions are of the same size, and it will be apparent that as bar **88** is rotated relative to bar **89**, there will be no danger of the garments being caught between the portions and sheared. In order to retain the two bars normally in alignment with each other, a ball detent **94** is received in a recess formed in a plate **95**, which plate is held against the outer surface of circular portion **91** by one head of pivot pin **93**. A recess **96** is formed on the inner surface of circular portion **90** to receive the ball detent when the bars are in alignment.

The frame or garment-supporting structures of the present invention thus have the advantage of flexibility in use since either end thereof may be placed uppermost, depending upon the length of garment carried, and regardless of which end is up, the upper end always has the inverted hook elements, from which the frame is suspended, and the lower hook elements which receive the loop from supporting member **67**. This latter member is particularly important since, whereas the several frames are rigidly supported, nothing engages the garments carried thereby. This distinguishes the present invention from the devices of the art wherein a strap extends across the garments and always leaves a wrinkled area.

What I claim is:

1. A wardrobe trunk comprising a generally rectangular housing provided with a plurality of hinged covers, a substantially centrally disposed, horizontal partition secured along its opposed lateral edges and rear longitudinal edge to the adjacent side and rear walls of the housing, imparting rigidity to such walls and dividing the trunk into a lower, clothing-accessory-carrying section, and an upper, body-garment-carrying section, means at the upper ends of the opposed side walls for suspending a body-garment-carrying frame, and means adjacent to the lower portion of the body-garment-carrying section for retaining the lower end of said frames against movement, said means comprising a bar spaced from the upper surface of said partition, and a member removably attached to the lower end of said frame, carried by said bar, and means for securing the movable member in a desired position on the bar.

2. A wardrobe trunk comprising a generally rectangular housing provided with an upper hinged cover and a front hinged cover, a substantially centrally disposed horizontal partition secured along its opposed lateral edges to the adjacent side walls of the housing, imparting rigidity to such walls and dividing the trunk into a lower, clothing-accessory-carrying section, and an upper, body-garment-carrying section, means at the upper ends of the opposed side walls of the housing for suspending a body-garment-carrying frame, and means adjacent to the lower portion of the body-garment-carrying section for retaining the lower end of said frames against movement, said means comprising a bar spaced from the upper surface of said partition, a plurality of spaced stop members carried thereby, and a movable retaining member removably attached to the lower end of said frame carried by the bar, one of said stop members engaging the movable member to secure the same in a desired position.

WALLACE H. BRACKEN.