April 28, 1953 W. H. J. DOWNEY 2,636,800

COMBINED LINEN CLOSET AND CLOTHES HAMPER

Filed April 15, 1949 2 SHEETS--SHEET 1

Fig. 1

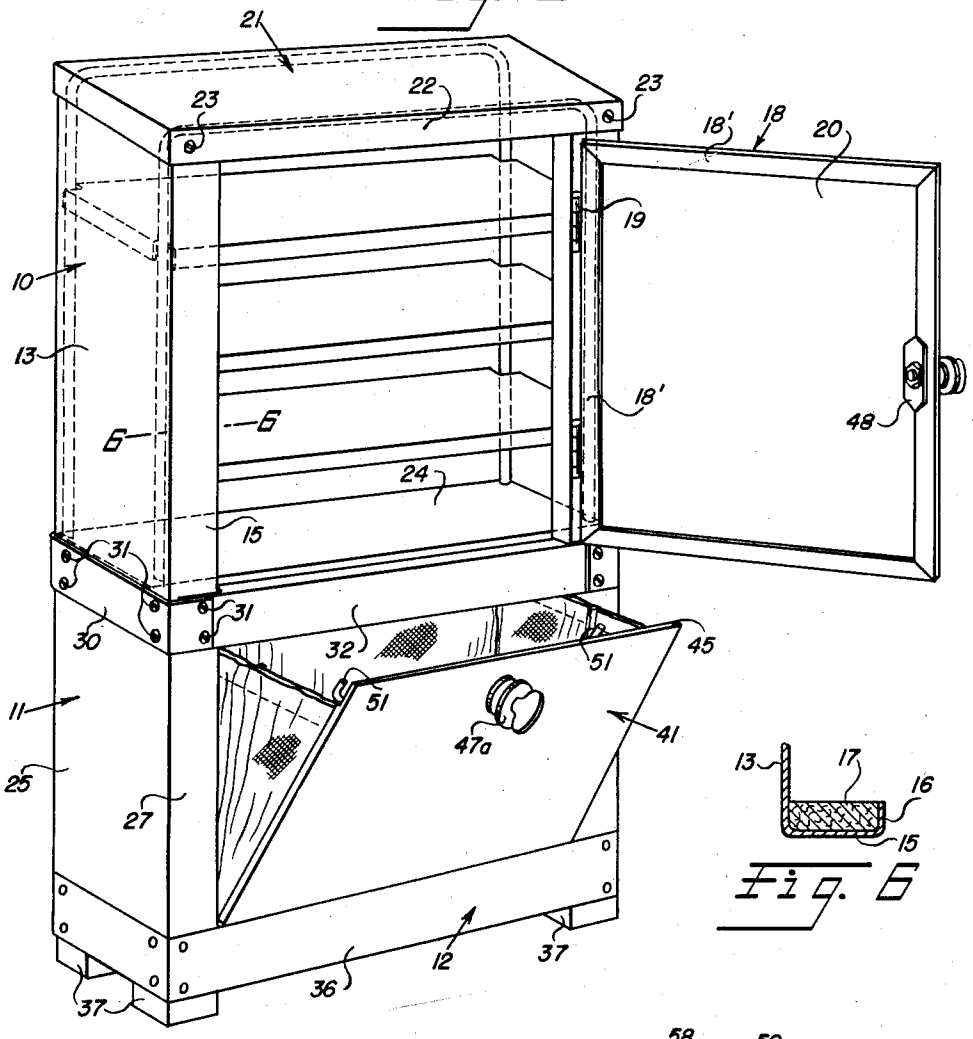


Fig. 6

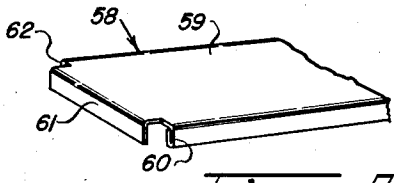


Fig. 8

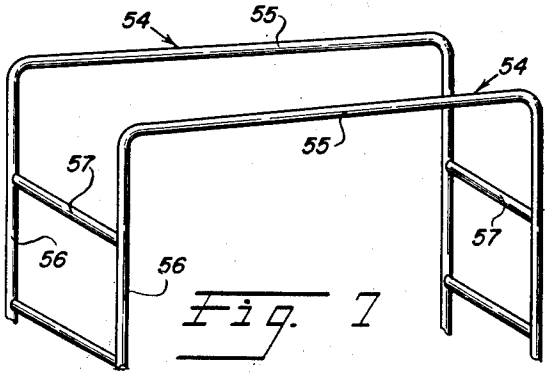


Fig. 7

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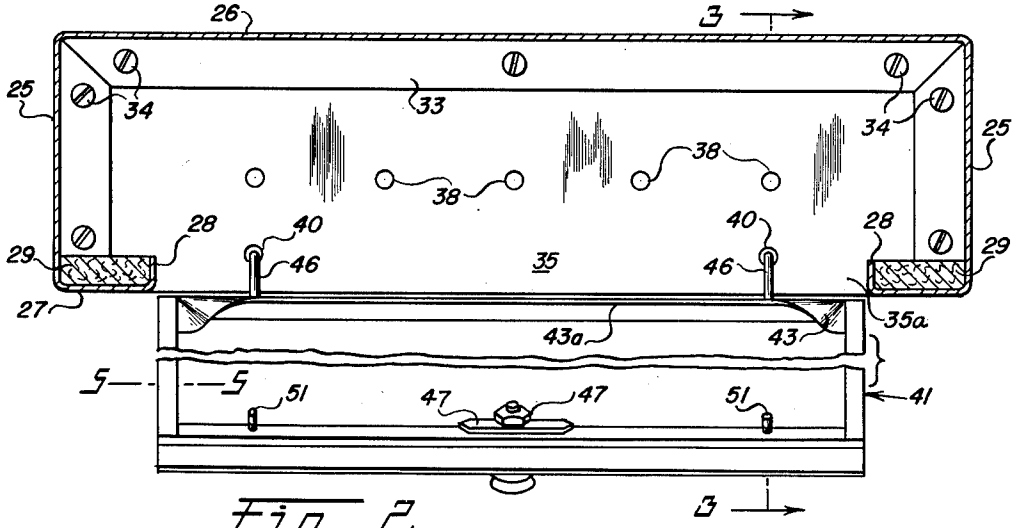


Fig. 2

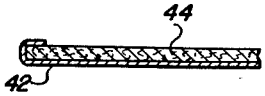


Fig. 5

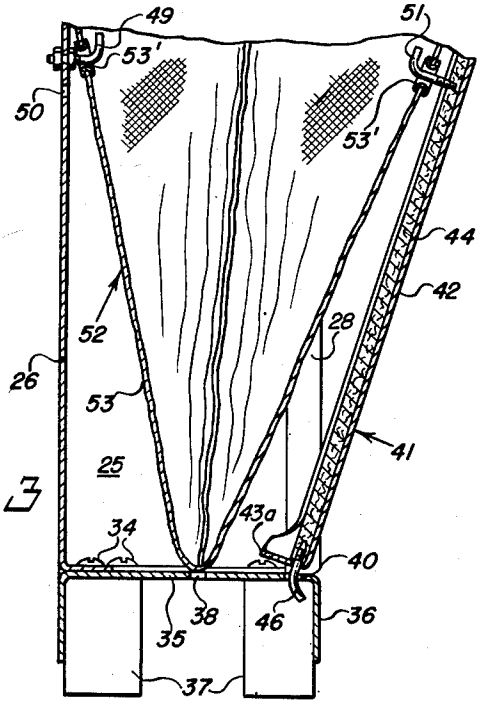
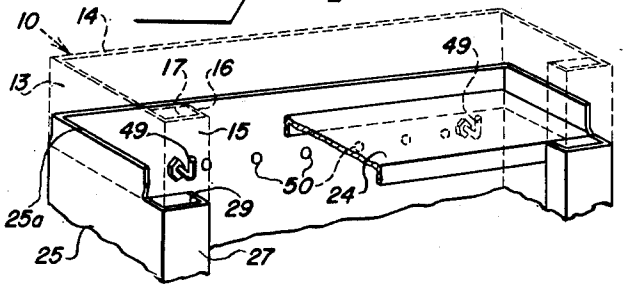


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



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COMBINED LINEN CLOSET AND CLOTHES HAMPER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312—328)

1

This invention relates generally to the class of cabinets and is directed particularly to an improved cabinet structure designed for use as a linen closet and soiled clothes hamper.

A principal object of the present invention is to provide a cabinet structure formed of sheet metal, which is of a novel design whereby it may be made up in units and readily assembled or set up for use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cabinet structure of the character stated having an upper and a lower section, which sections are detachably joined together and wherein the upper section is provided with a plurality of removable shelves and the lower section is provided with a swinging front door panel together with a removable bag or hamper which is connected between the back wall of the section and the door panel whereby, when the door panel is opened, the mouth of the hamper is opened ready for the reception of soiled clothing or other articles.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved cabinet structure wherein novel means is provided for detachably supporting a plurality of shelves, such shelf supporting means comprising a unit which is insertible into the cabinet through the top thereof.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description of the same proceeds and the invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part of the specification, with the understanding, however, that the invention is not to be limited to the exact details of construction shown and described since obvious modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of the linen closet enclosed hamper of the present invention, showing the closet door open and the clothes hamper door open.

Figure 2 is a horizontal section of the lower section of the structure with the hamper bag removed and showing the door in opened position.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Figure 2 showing the bag in position and in transverse section.

Figure 4 is a detail perspective of the upper portion of the lower section showing the lower part of the upper section in dotted outline thereon.

Figure 5 is a detailed section taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Figure 2.

2

Figure 6 is a detailed section taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Figure 1.

Figure 7 is a view in perspective of the upper portion of the shelf supporting frame unit.

Figure 8 is a detailed perspective of one end of a shelf unit.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings the cabinet structure of the present invention comprises an upper section 10 and a lower section 11 together with a supporting base 12 upon which the lower section is mounted.

The cabinet is preferably constructed of sheet metal and the upper portion 10 comprises the side walls 13 and back wall 14. The side walls 13 are turned inwardly at the front of the section to provide the front wall panels 15 each of which has a vertical edge turned back as indicated at 16 to form a channel in which a reinforcing strip 17 is secured. Between the panels 15 is the door opening which is covered by the door unit 18 hingedly mounted as at 19 to the inner edge of one of the front wall panels 15 as illustrated.

The door unit 18 is formed of sheet metal having inturned flanges 18' which secure against the inner side of the metal sheet the thin reinforcing panel 20 which may be formed of wood or other suitable material.

The top of the upper section is generally designated 21 and this comprises a suitable sheet of metal having the surrounding down turned flanges 22 which enclose the top edges of the walls 13 and 14 and the front wall panels 15 and such top unit is secured by bolts, screws or the like as designated at 23. Thus it will be seen that by removal of the top 21 the hereinafter described shelving and supporting means therefor may be readily placed in position.

A bottom shelf 24 is disposed in the upper part of the lower section and in addition to providing a bottom for the upper section provides a top for the lower section as will be readily apparent.

The lower section 11 is constructed in a similar manner to the upper section in that it has the side walls 25 and back wall 26 formed preferably of a single sheet of sheet metal, the side walls having inwardly turned front wall panel forming sections 27, each of which terminates in an inwardly directed flange 28 forming an inwardly directed recess or channel in which is fitted a reinforcing strip 29 of wood or other suitable material.

As shown in Figure 4 the side walls 25 and the back wall 26 of the lower section are extended slightly above the top end of the panels 27 and the reinforcing strips 29 forming a flange 25a. This flange portion around the top of the lower

section is inserted into the lower part of the upper section whereby to rest the upper section upon the lower section and lower ends of the reinforcing inserts 17 and of the front wall panels 15 of the upper section rest upon the top ends of the reinforcing inserts 29 and the front panels 27 of the lower section. After the sections are assembled in this manner a trim strip or band 30 is placed around the structure to cover the joint between the walls of the upper and lower sections and to extend across the joining edges of the front wall panels 15 and 27 and such trim strip is secured in place by metal screws, bolts or other suitable securing elements as indicated at 31.

Connecting the ends of the trim strip 30 in the front of the cabinet and extending across the lower part of the door opening of the upper section and the upper part of the door opening for the lower section, is a flat rail 32, the ends of which are secured to the front wall panel sections of the upper and lower cabinet sections, by means of securing elements 31 which secure the trim strip in place.

The lower section side walls 25 and the back wall 26 have the inturned foot flanges 33 which rest upon the top of the base unit 12 and are secured thereto by bolts, screws or the like as indicated at 34. The base unit comprises a sheet metal panel 35 which has the down turned flanges or skirts 36 whereby there is formed a downwardly opening box-like unit in each of the corners of which is secured a supporting foot 37. The metal sheet 35 forms the bottom or floor for the lower cabinet section and this floor is provided with a plurality of ventilation apertures 38 for the purpose hereinafter described. In addition to the ventilation apertures there are formed in the floor sheet 35, within the door opening 35a the hinge pin openings 40 by means of which the pivotal mounting of an outwardly swinging or tilting door panel is effected. Such door panel is generally designated 41 and is preferably constructed in a similar manner to the door 18 in that it comprises an outer metal sheet 42 which is of a size to fit within the lower cabinet section opening 39 and which has the inturned flanges 43 which engage over the edges of a reinforcing panel 44 which is placed against the inner side of the sheet 42 and which may be formed of wood, pressed fiber board or other suitable material.

At the top of the swinging door unit 41 a portion of the metal sheet 42 is extended upwardly to form a lip 45 which, when the door unit 41 is closed engages against the forward face of the rail 32.

At the bottom of the door unit 41, a portion of the flange 43 extends straight inwardly, substantially perpendicular to the sheet 42 of which it forms a part, as indicated at 43a and this inwardly extending portion of the flange carries a pair of downwardly and forwardly curving pins 46, each of which engages loosely in an opening 40. The pins, loosely engaging in the openings 40, thus form a hinge connection with the base of the cabinet for the door unit 41 which permits the door unit to be swung outwardly and also permits the door unit to be easily and quickly detached from the floor 35 for removal.

The upper part of the door unit 41 carries a suitable latch 47 which, when the door unit is in closed position, engages behind the rail 32 by being rotated through the medium of the button 47a.

A similar rotatable latch 48 is carried by the door unit 18 which engages against the inner edge of the inturned flange portion of the adjacent front wall panel section 15, when the door unit 18 is closed, as will be readily apparent.

The back wall 26 of the lower section of the cabinet carries a pair of hooks 49 which are disposed just below the shelf panel 24 which is fixed in the upper part of the lower cabinet section as shown and there are formed in the back wall, preferably in the upper portion thereof between the hooks 49, ventilating openings 50.

Upon the inner side of the lower section door unit 41 are mounted hooks 51 which cooperate with the hooks 49 to support a soiled clothes bag or hamper 52. This bag 52 is of substantially V-shaped cross sectional form as shown in Figure 3 and adjacent to the top edge of both the front and back walls 53 it has grommets 53' each of which is detachably engaged over a hook whereby to suspend the bag between the front wall unit 41 and the back wall 26. The lower part of the bag rests upon the floor 35 at the ventilation openings 38. Thus it will be seen that by the provision of the openings 38 and 50 a suitable movement of air through the lower cabinet section may take place to provide for the thorough ventilation of the bag.

The upper section 19 has therein a plurality of shelves which are supported, removably, in the following novel manner.

Arranged in spaced relation within the upper section are the two inverted substantially U-shaped frames 54 each of which comprises a top transverse or horizontal rail 55 and the vertical side rails or posts 56. One of these frames is disposed in the rear part of the cabinet section while the other one is disposed in the front part thereof and the lower ends of the posts 56 rest upon the floor 24.

Connecting between the adjacent front and rear posts 56 are the vertically spaced horizontal rungs 57 which not only function to maintain the frames 54 in the proper spaced relation but also serve the more important function of supporting the removable shelf units 58. Each shelf unit, which is preferably formed of sheet metal of suitable weight, comprises the rectangular sheet 59 which has the forward longitudinal edge portion turned down and folded back to form the front reinforcing flange 60. At each end of the shelf is a down turned tongue 61 which is of a length materially less than the width of the shelf whereby to provide the corner spaces 62 in which the upright posts 56 of the supporting frames position when the tongue 61 is inserted between a rung or rail 57 and the adjacent side wall 13.

It will be readily apparent that the shelf supporting unit comprising the frames 54 and the connecting rungs or bars 57 may be easily placed in position within the cabinet section before the top 21 is placed and secured and since the top 21 is readily removable it will be apparent that the shelf supporting unit can be taken out if and when desired.

From the foregoing it will be readily apparent that there is provided in the present invention a new and novel type of combination linen cabinet and clothes hamper wherein the two units or sections are constructed and assembled in a novel manner and wherein, in the clothes hamper unit or section provision is made for supporting a removable clothes receptacle or bag in such a manner that it will open up upon open-

ing of the door to the hamper to facilitate the placing of soiled linen therein.

It will also be apparent that the present construction for the shelving in the upper section of the cabinet is such that the construction and assembling of the shelving in the section may be effected with a minimum of effort and the shelves are supported in such a manner that they may be easily and quickly removed for cleaning when necessary.

I claim:

1. In a clothes hamper, a supporting base, a compartment forming body mounted on the base and comprising top, bottom, back and side walls, and an open front, the bottom wall having a series of ventilating apertures spaced along its longitudinal center, a door hinged for outward and downward swinging movement normally closing the open front, a bag-like container of V-form in transverse section within the body, and means carried by the back wall and the door engageable with the top end of the back and front walls of the container for detachably suspending the container in place, the bottom of the bag being disposed in close proximity to and in line with the said apertures.

2. The clothes hamper as defined in claim 1, with the said bag suspension means comprising hook elements carried adjacent the top of the back wall, other hook elements carried on the door opposite from the first hook elements, and grommets secured in the tops of the rear and front walls of the container and engaged with the hook elements.

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