

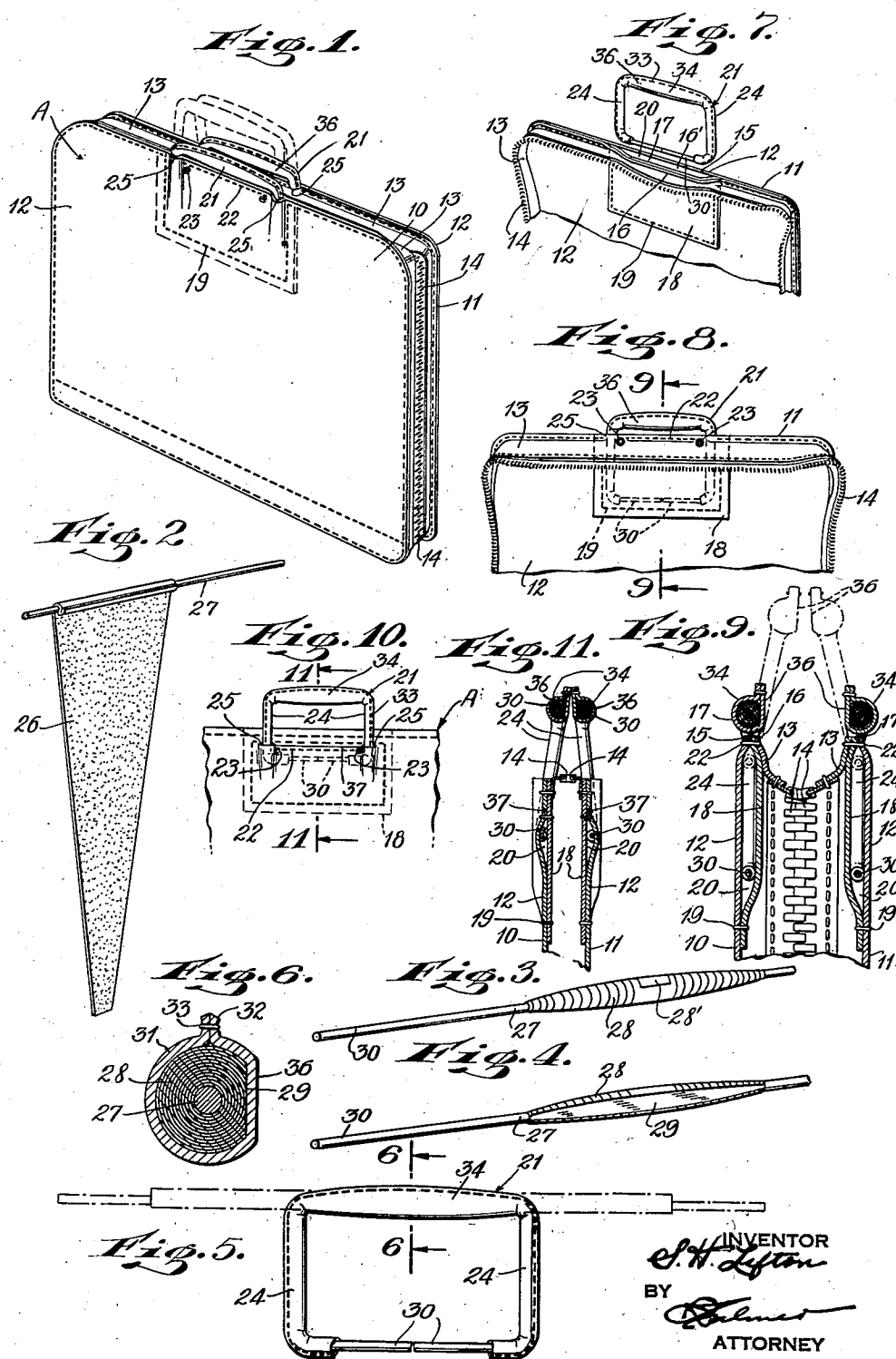
Feb. 2, 1937.

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2,069,255

BRIEF CASE

Filed Sept. 14, 1935



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,069,255

BRIEF CASE

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Application September 14, 1935, Serial No. 40,569

6 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.6)

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in brief cases and more particularly deals with a brief case comprising disconnectible and hingedly associated complementary sections each having a slidable guided complementary handle adapted when in a projected position to sustain a portion of the load imparted by the case and its contents.

One object of the invention, among others to be described, is to provide a relatively rugged, durable, functionally and structurally improved brief case comprising appropriately disconnectible companion sections each of which is provided with a complementary handle slidably guided in a pocket defined by a longitudinal wall thereof and a centrally disposed facing secured to the inner surface of the latter.

It is another object of the invention to provide a brief case characterized by hingedly connected sections each having a pocket adapted to receive and slidably but closely confine a complementary covered handle substantially rectangular in contour and having its lower horizontal brace cooperating to sustain the load of the case when disposed adjacent a horizontally disposed line of stitching forming means for substantially closing a respective pocket.

The invention also contemplates an improved method of forming a complementary handle by providing an elongated rod upon which is rolled a substantially elliptically shaped filler, pared to define a rectilinear face after which the rolled filler and exposed portions of the rod are snugly enclosed within a pliable covering and subsequently portions of the covered rod extending laterally of the filler are bent downwardly and inwardly to form a substantially rectangular loop.

Other objects, advantages and features of the invention will appear from the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawing which for purposes of illustration, disclose preferred embodiments of the invention in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of one form of brief case or envelope according to the invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates the step of rolling a filler upon an elongated cylindrical rod.

Fig. 3 shows in perspective the filler rolled and secured to the elongated rod to define an elliptically shaped barrel.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 but showing the barrel pared to constitute a flat surface.

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of a complementary covered handle.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged section of the handle taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view of Fig. 1 illustrating a completed complementary handle just prior to insertion thereof in a retaining pocket of an associated section of the case, the pocket being shown open.

Fig. 8 is an elevational view of Fig. 7 showing the complementary handle slidably secured in its retaining pocket.

Fig. 9 is a sectional view on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8, however, illustrating the companion sections of the brief case.

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary view of a brief case illustrating a slightly modified form and

Fig. 11 is a section taken on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10.

According to the form illustrated in Fig. 1, the brief case or envelope A comprises front and rear hingedly connected companion sections 10 and 11 each having an outer wall 12 to each of which is stitched a three side flexible rim or gusset 13 each carrying interlocking elements 14 adapted to be disconnectibly meshed together by a slidable rider (not shown) whereby the opposing gussets of the juxtapositioned sections 10 and 11 may be conveniently brought together or separated for holding these sections closed or for readily opening the latter respectively as is well understood. It will be noted, however, (see Fig. 7) that the central part 15 of an outer wall 12 and associated central marginal part 16 of a gusset are left unstitched thereby providing a gap 16' in which is arranged the upper marginal portion 17 of a rectangularly shaped flexible facing 18 having its side and lower marginal portions first secured to an inner surface of its outer wall of the case by a U-shaped line of 40 stitchings 19.

Hence facing 18 and associated outer wall of the case define a pocket or compartment 20 in which a complementary slidable handle generally denoted 21 in part is slidably inserted after which 45 upper marginal portions 15, 17 and 16 of an outer wall 12 of the case, the intervening facing 18; and a companion gusset, respectively are secured together by a line of stitching 22, which is prevented from unravelling by the spaced ferrules 50 23 secured to the ends of the line of stitching 22 and to the outer wall of the case, the intervening facing and the gusset, thereby constituting supplementary fastening means for jointly holding the latter firmly connected together. The 55

line of stitching 22 terminates just short of the inside faces of spaced arms 24 of the inserted handle, consequently forming spaced guide sockets or gaps 25, the walls of which are formed by the intervening facing 18, and an outer wall 12 whereby the sides 24 may be closely confined although slidably guided relative to its complementary section. It follows therefore handles 21 may be extended or withdrawn in the manner as indicated by the dash lines shown in Fig. 1 relative to the complementary sections when it is desired to carry the case about from place to place, or a handle may be retracted or closed by slidably directing the latter inwardly.

In accordance with the invention each handle 21 is formed by first coiling or winding a tapered sheet 26 of fibrous material, such as cloth or relatively heavy paper about a cylindrical rod 27. More particularly the flared or expanded terminal part of sheet 26 is first adhesively secured to rod 27 after which the former is wound about the rod to form an elliptical or belly shaped filler or body 28, the terminal 28' of which is adhesively secured to the penultimate coil thereof. Subsequently filler 28 is pared to form a rectilinear face 29. Except for its terminal portions 30 the rod and its pared filler are snugly disposed in a flexible casing 31 which has its meeting ends 32 secured by a line of stitching 33.

The covered rod 27 is then appropriately bent to form the upper horizontal brace 34, which includes the pared filler and depending from brace 34 are the vertical sides 24 from which inwardly extend the partly covered arms 30 constituting the lower brace of the handle and the sides of the latter are slidably disposed in spaced sockets 25 in its companion brief case section, the flat face 36, however, of each handle facing inwardly and are adapted to be juxtapositioned and in contact when the complementary handles are brought together.

When assembled within a pocket 20 of its respective section, the lower horizontal brace of a handle constituted by adjacent aligned ends 30, in a projected position of the handle, cooperate with an associated reinforced horizontal line of stitching 22 to limit upward displacement of the handles and to absorb in part the load of the case. With the present arrangement, the handles may be readily and quickly assembled in each section and may be conveniently retracted or withdrawn relative thereto.

According to the brief case or envelope illustrated in Figs. 10 and 11 the gussets 13 are eliminated, the interlocking fastening means 14 being secured directly to the marginal portions of the front and rear walls 12 and to a part of the flexible facings 18 attached to the inner faces of walls 12. However, in Figs. 10 and 11, the outer walls 12 are each provided with a horizontally disposed kerf or cut 37 forming an entrance to compartment 20 to permit insertion of a complementary handle 21 and after the latter is inserted a line of stitching 22 is applied to connect together the outer walls and its facing above the lower brace of the handle to form spaced sockets 25 to slidably guide the vertical sides of the handle. In other aspects, the construction according to Figs. 10 and 11 is substantially identical to the form illustrated in Figs. 1 to 9 inclusive.

While the invention has been described in detail and reference has been made to specific applications thereof, it is to be understood that the invention herein disclosed is not limited to such specific applications and it is intended that all

matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In a brief case, the combination of, disconnectible and hingedly associated complementary sections each of which comprises; an outer wall constituting a part of said case, a facing secured at its sides and bottom to a surface of said wall and forming with the latter an accessible pocket open substantially at the top of said facing, a handle comprising; an upper substantially horizontal grip portion, vertical side arms and a lower substantially horizontal brace, said handle being inserted in said pocket except for said grip portion, and a line of stitching partially closing the pocket opening defined by said wall and facing, said line of stitching extending between said side arms above said brace to define gaps between the sides of said pocket and said line of stitching for slidably guiding said arms, said line of stitching cooperating with said brace to limit upward displacement of said handle relative to said outer wall.

2. In a brief case, the combination of, disconnectible and hingedly associated complementary sections each of which comprises; an outer wall constituting a part of said case, a facing secured at its sides and bottom to a surface of said wall and forming with the latter an accessible pocket open substantially at the top of said facing, a handle comprising; an upper substantially horizontal grip portion, vertical side arms and a lower substantially horizontal brace, said handle being inserted in said pocket except for said grip portion, and securing means partially closing the pocket defined by said wall and facing, said securing means extending between said arms above said brace to define spaced gaps for slidably guiding said arms during displacement of said handle relative to said wall and facing, said securing means cooperating with said brace to limit upward displacement of said handle relative to said wall and facing.

3. In a brief case, the combination of, disconnectible and hingedly associated complementary sections each of which comprises; an outer wall constituting a part of said case, a facing disposed at the upper portion of said wall and having its sides and bottom secured to an inner surface of said wall and defining with the latter a pocket having an opening at the top thereof, a handle comprising; an upper substantially horizontal grip portion, depending vertical side arms and a lower substantially horizontal brace, said handle being inserted in said pocket through said opening as to leave said grip portion exposed above said pocket, and a line of stitching secured to said wall and facing for partially closing said opening, said line of stitching extending between said side arms above said brace to define gaps between the sides of said pocket and said line of stitching for slidably guiding said vertical arms, said line of stitching cooperating with said brace to limit upward displacement of said handle relative to said outer wall.

4. In a brief case, the combination of, disconnectible and hingedly associated complementary sections each of which comprises; an outer wall constituting a part of said case, a facing disposed at the upper portion of said wall and having its sides and bottom secured to an inner surface of said wall and defining therewith a pocket

having a relatively elongated opening substantially at the top thereof, a handle comprising; an upper substantially horizontal grip portion having integrally depending vertical sides each
 5 having an inwardly turned portion constituting aligned complementary members defining substantially horizontal brace means, said handle being inserted in said pocket through said opening as to leave said grip portion exposed above
 10 said pocket, a line of stitching secured to said wall and facing for partially closing said opening, said line of stitching extending between said side arms above said brace means to define gaps between the sides of said pocket and said line of
 15 stitching for slidably guiding said vertical arms during displacement of said handle relative to said wall, said line of stitching cooperating with said brace means to limit upward displacement of said handle relative to said wall.
 20 5. In a brief case, the combination of, disconnectible and hingedly associated complementary sections each of which comprises; a wall, facing means secured at its sides and bottom to an upper surface of said wall to form a pocket open at its
 25 top, a slidable handle comprising an upper substantially horizontal grip portion, vertical and depending side arms and a lower substantially horizontal brace, said handle being inserted in

said pocket except for said grip portion, and a line of stitching partially closing said pocket opening and disposed between said arms at the upper marginal portion of said facing means and said wall to form spaced gaps for slidably guiding said arms, said line of stitching cooperating
 5 with said brace to limit upward bodily displacement of said handle relative to said wall.

6. In a brief case, the combination of, disconnectible and hingedly associated complementary
 10 sections each of which comprises; a wall, facing means secured at its sides and bottom to an upper surface of said wall to form a pocket open at its top, a slidable handle comprising an upper substantially horizontal grip portion, vertical and
 15 depending side arms and a lower substantially horizontal brace, said handle being inserted in said pocket except for said grip portion, and securing means partially closing said pocket opening and disposed between said arms at the
 20 upper marginal portions of said facing means and said wall to form spaced gaps for slidably guiding said arms, said securing means cooperating with said brace to limit upward bodily displacement of said handle relative to said wall.
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