

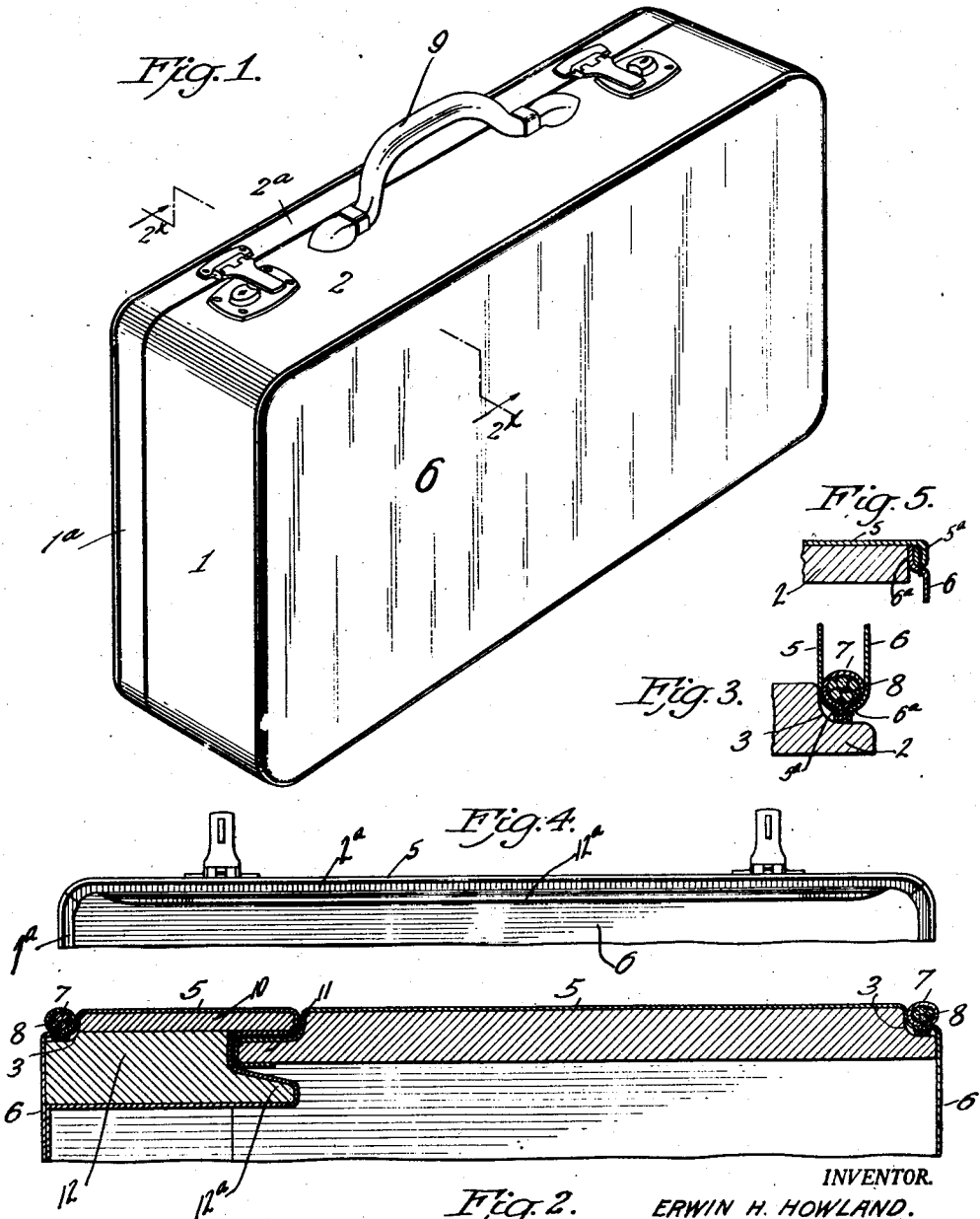
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BAGGAGE

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BAGGAGE.

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My present invention relates to improvements in hand baggage and particularly to those articles designated as suit cases and it has for its object to provide a novel means of applying a covering material to the box or shell, whereby the corner edges may be united to provide a cushion for the corner edges of the shell which acts as a protection for those portions most liable to injury and also provides means whereby the stitching of said parts is protected and a pleasing appearance of the article is obtained.

The invention also has for its object to provide as a further feature a new means of forming an interlocking connection between the uniting edges of the two top panels of the body and cover portion of a suit case, whereby the cover assists in supporting the load when the case is suspended by the handle, said connection between the parts also serving to prevent the top panel of the body from sagging or being crushed. To these and other ends my invention consists in certain additional improvements all of which will be further described, the novel features being pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a suit case constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken on the line 2^a-2^a of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail sectional view showing the channeled edge of a panel and the method of uniting the pieces of covering material to provide the cushion edge.

Fig. 4 is an interior longitudinal view of the grooved edge of the cover top panel, and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detailed sectional view showing an alternative method of uniting the pieces of covering material to provide a cushion edge, which is particularly adapted for use when the covering material is comparatively thin and when the use of a filler is not desired.

In the several figures similar characters indicate similar parts.

In constructing a piece of baggage in accordance with my invention, I provide two similarly shaped parts one of which comprises the body, and the other fitted thereto, provides the cover. In illustrating my

invention I have shown it as applied to a suit case which is rectangular in outline, the body or shell being formed of two end panels 1, a top panel 2, and a similar bottom panel. The closure or cover of the case is of similar shape, one of the end panels being indicated by 1^a and the top panel by 2^a. The body and cover are united by a suitable hinge joint located along the contiguous edges of their bottom panels, said parts being adapted to be also secured by suitable locking devices attached to their two top panels.

In accordance with my invention the frame panels are made of light but strong material having a substantial thickness as compared with the overlying covering material which may be of leather, fabric or the like. This thickness of the panels is provided in order that a sufficient distance will be provided between the inner and outer faces of the same to enable the meeting edges of the covering material to be accommodated, thus insuring that these edges, which are usually united by stitching, will be placed between the planes including these faces. To facilitate this, the outer or surrounding corner edges of the several body and cover panels may be chamfered or channeled more or less as indicated by 3 in Figs. 2 and 3.

The covering consists of a continuous strip of material wrapped around the exterior faces of the several panels, as indicated by 5, and a sheet 6 which forms a wall and covers the area bounded by the several panels of the open frame. The meeting edges of the surrounding strip and said wall sheet are turned inwardly, as indicated by 5^a and 6^a in Figs. 3 and 5, and preferably united by a row, or rows, of stitching.

If the covering material is comparatively thin, a very slight depression will usually be sufficient to accommodate the joined and turned edges, or an arrangement without any depression, as shown in Fig. 5, may be satisfactorily employed. In this construction, the edge of either the panel strip 5 or body sheet 6, may be folded under and turned down upon the other, the panel strip edge being so shown herein, and the two members stitched together near their edges. In this way the edges will extend inwardly and occupy a portion between the inner

and outer planes or faces of the panels, thus protecting the stitching and the combined thickness of the material will provide in effect a cushion surface along the edge of each panel which will prevent the bruising or cutting of said material when contacting with other objects.

Further continuing the idea of providing a cushion edge I have shown a very practical arrangement which consists generally in including between the inturned edges, before referred to, a filling strip for increasing the plies of material which may also embody the use of a tubular strip, indicated by 7, preferably containing a filling, such as a cord 8 of any desired diameter. By arranging the parts in the manner described, the stitching is entirely covered and the cushion edging extends completely around the outer edges or corners of the several panels in a position to protect the covering adjacent thereto.

Baggage of the character described often breaks down and loses its original neat appearance due to the fact that the load is carried wholly by the top panel to which the handle 9 is attached. This panel, due to its larger area, is also the one that is often crushed down or forced inwardly by being stacked in shipment with other articles. To minimize these difficulties, I provide at the meeting edges of the body and cover portions of the case an interlocking tongue and groove connection, whereby part of the load carried by the top panel, in one instance, tending to spring the panel outwardly, is sustained by the top panel of the cover and in the other instance a force tending to move said panel inwardly is resisted. These features are accomplished by forming the top panel of the cover with a lip 10 fitting over or outside of a tongue 11 on the corresponding panel of the body and providing a reinforcing strip 12 which is attached to the inner side of the cover panel and has an offset edge 12^a which passes inside or below the tongue 11 to receive the thrust of the latter if the panel 2 is moved inwardly.

The reinforcing strip 12 is preferably secured to the inner surface of the top panel of the cover throughout its length by gluing and if desired other fastening means may be utilized. I also deem it preferable to make the reinforcing strip of greater thickness than the top panel to which it is secured and to extend it for substantially the full length thereof, its ends being beveled as shown in Fig. 4 to facilitate the overlaying of the covering material.

Hand baggage constructed in accordance with my invention presents a neat, attractive appearance and retains its original shape even under severe use. The covering of the panels with a substantially continuous piece of leather, fabric or other suitable covering

material obviates the necessity of stitching at the corners, thus enabling the latter to be made rounded and the means I have described for uniting this portion with the wall sheet provides a continuous cushion edge which will save both the corners and the entire edging of the several panels from becoming damaged, and completely protect the stitching of the covering material.

The invention having been described, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. In a suit case, the combination with a frame comprising top, bottom and end panels, having a substantial thickness, of a strip of covering material overlying said panels and a wall sheet extending across the space bounded by said panels, the edges of said strip and the edges of the wall sheet being turned inwardly and united by a seam, said edges lying between the planes formed by the inner and outer faces of said panels and forming a cushion.

2. In a suit case, the combination with a rectangular frame having a recessed edge, of a continuous strip surrounding the frame and a wall sheet covering the area inclosed by the frame, said strip and sheet being united by a seam lying within said recessed edge.

3. In a suit case, the combination with an open frame composed of panels, having a substantial thickness, of a covering therefor comprising a wall sheet covering the area inclosed by the frame and a continuous strip of similar material surrounding the panels, the contiguous edges of the sheet and strip being turned inwardly and united by stitching to form a seam said edges lying between the inner and outer surfaces of the respective panel pieces of the frame.

4. In a suit case, the combination with an open frame composed of panels of substantial thickness, of a covering comprising a wall sheet extending over the area bounded by the frame and a covering strip overlying the panels, said strip and wall sheet having their meeting edges turned inwardly and united by stitching and a cushioning strip inclosed between said edges and positioned at the edge of the panels of the frame.

5. In a suit case, the combination with an open frame composed of rigid panels of substantial thickness, of a covering comprising a wall sheet extending over the area bounded by the frame and a covering strip overlying the panels, said strip and wall sheet having their meeting edges united and a filling strip secured between said edges, and forming a cushioning edge located at the edges of the rigid panels.

6. In a suit case, the combination with an open frame composed of panels of substantial thickness, of a covering comprising a wall sheet extending over the area bounded

by the frame and a covering strip overlying surrounding the panels and a wall sheet cov- 10
the panels, said strip and wall sheet having ering the area inclosed thereby, said strip
their meeting edges turned inwardly and and sheet having their meeting edges turned
united by stitching and a folded strip inclos- inwardly and secured together and lying in
5 ing a filling having its edges secured between the chamfered portion of the panels.
said inturned edges.

7. In a suit case, the combination with a
frame composed of panels, the outer corners
of which are chamfered, of a covering strip

This specification signed and witnessed
this 19th day of May, 1926.

ERWIN W. HOWLAND.