Feb. 13, 1940. H. L. THARP 2,190,090

SELF-OPENING PORTFOLIO

Filed Sept. 29, 1938 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

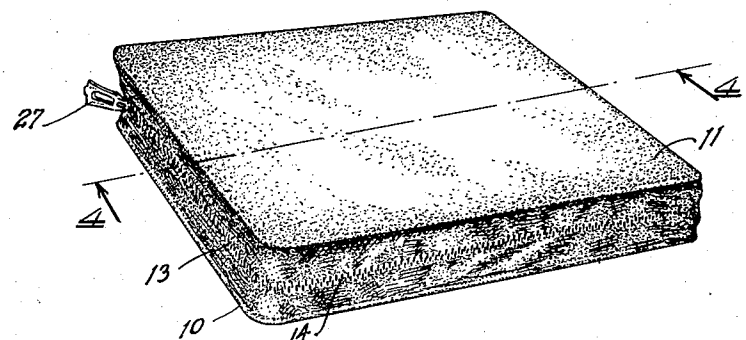


FIG. 1

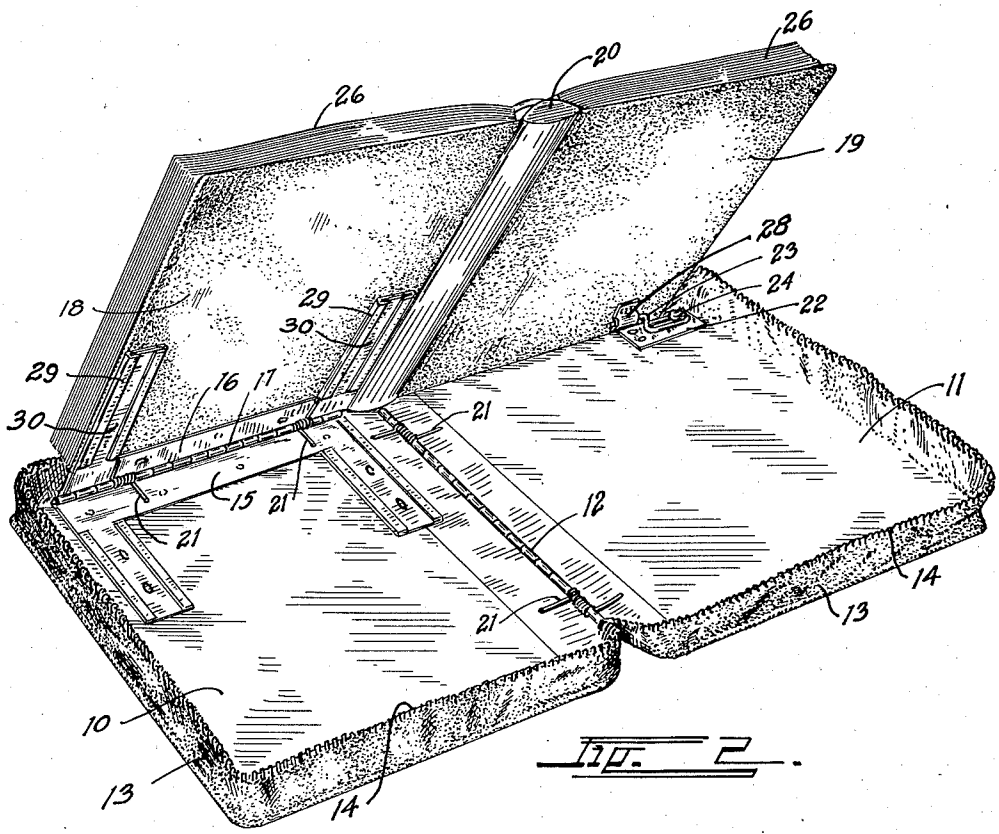


FIG. 2

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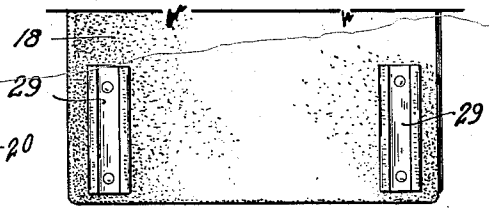


Fig. 6.

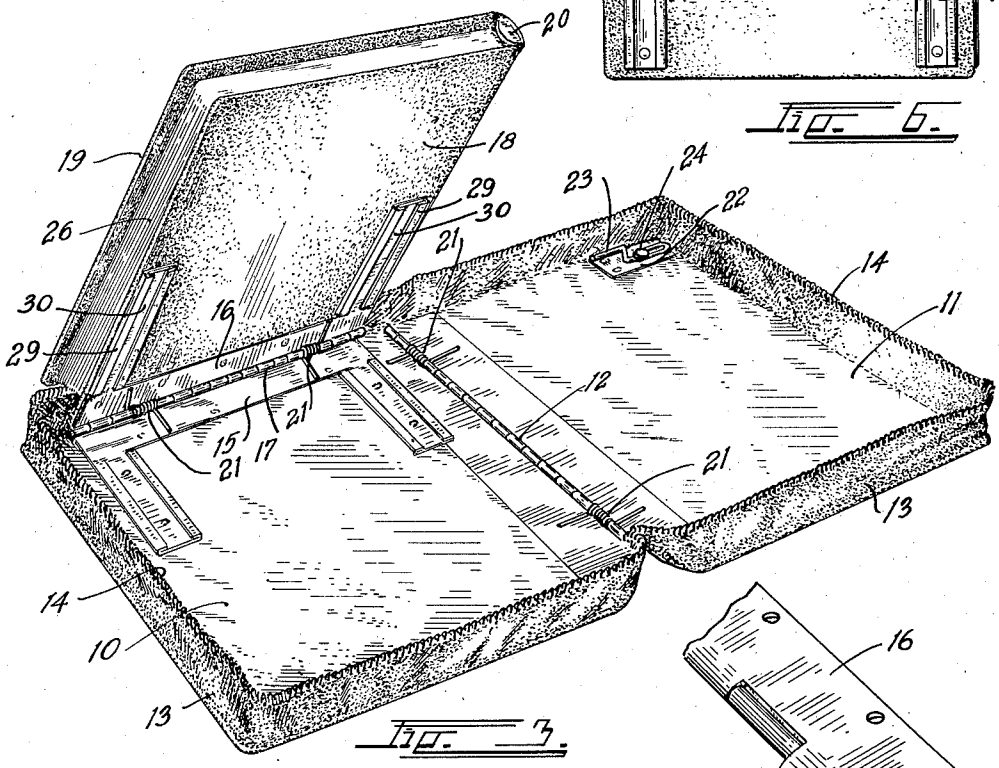


Fig. 3.

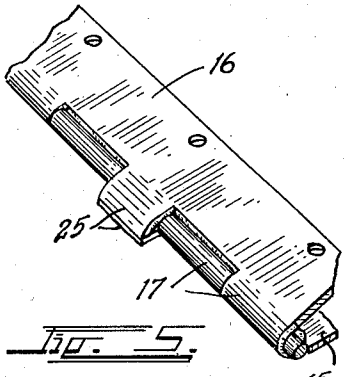


Fig. 5.

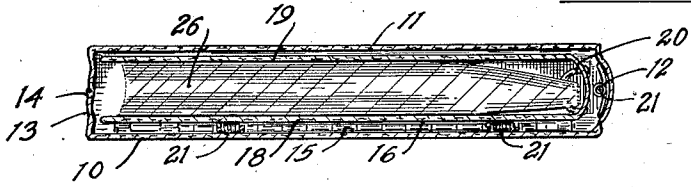


Fig. 4.

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SELF-OPENING PORTFOLIO

Harry L. Tharp, Denver, Colo.

Application September 29, 1938, Serial No. 232,318

8 Claims. (Cl. 281—33)

This invention relates to a portable, self-opening portfolio and display case and is more particularly designed for use by salesmen in displaying catalogues and other sales matter to prospective purchasers.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a neat, compact, easily portable portfolio which can be placed upon a desk, table or other supporting object and released to automatically open to display matter contained therein at the most convenient angle for view of the prospect.

Another object of the invention is to so construct the device that either a single display board or a double binder of sheets of material will be simultaneously exposed when the portfolio opens.

Other objects and advantages reside in the detail construction of the invention, which is designed for simplicity, economy, and efficiency. These will become more apparent from the following description.

In the following detailed description of the invention reference is had to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof. Like numerals refer to like parts in all views of the drawings and throughout the description.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the portfolio in the closed position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view thereof in the open position illustrating the device displaying a complete opened binder of material simultaneously.

Fig. 3 is a similar perspective view illustrating the device in the partially open position for displaying a single sheet or display board.

Fig. 4 is a cross section through the closed portfolio, taken on the line 4—4, Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a detail view of one of the spring hinges.

Fig. 6 is a detail view showing the attaching slides on the binder.

The invention comprises two outer case members 10 and 11 joined to each other by means of a self-opening spring hinge 12. The case members 10 and 11 are completely surrounded by means of flexible sides 13 which carry a zipper fastener 14 along their edges. The case members are held in the closed position of Fig. 1 by means of the zipper slide fastener 27 and, when the zipper is released, the spring hinge 12 immediately forces the two case members to the open position of Fig. 2.

A fixed hinge plate 15 is permanently secured adjacent one end of the member 10. The fixed hinge plate is hingedly secured to a movable hinge plate 16 by means of a spring hinge 17. The spring hinges 12 and 17 are both constantly urged toward the open position by means of coiled hinge springs 21.

The movable hinge plate is formed with two tongues 30 which are removably received in suitable slides 29 upon a binder back board 18. A second binder back board 19 is hinged to the first board 18 by means of a standard loose leaf binder hinge 20 to which any desired pages or leaves 26 may be attached.

A latch plate 22 is attached at the corner of the case member 11. The latch plate carries a latch rod 23 which may be slidably mounted thereon upon a slide rivet 24. This mounting enables the rod 23 to be slid back and forth into and out of engagement with a receiving sleeve 28 secured adjacent the corner of the binder board 19. By this construction, the two binder boards 18 and 19 may if desired be secured to both case members, the board 18 being secured to the spring hinge 17, and the board 19 being detachably secured by means of the latch rod 23.

The opening movement of the hinge 12 is limited by the surface upon which the portfolio rests. The amount of opening of the hinge 17 is limited by means of one or more stop tongues 25 which are turned outwardly from the hinge 17 to engage each other when the binder 18 is at the correct open angle.

To close the device from the position of Fig. 2, the user presses the loose leaf binder boards downwardly into the case members, swings the two case members closed and locks them by means of the zipper slide 27.

To release the device for display purposes, it is only necessary for the operator to release the zipper fastener. This allows the spring 12 to throw the two case members open and simultaneously the spring hinge 17 elevates the binder boards 18—19 to the position of Fig. 2.

It may not be desired to immediately display the open binder, in which case, the board 19 can be released from the case member 11 by simply releasing the latch 23. Then, when the case opens, the binder will rise to the position of Fig. 3 to display the back of the binder board 11, which may carry any desired display material. The board 11 can then be swung to the open position whenever desired.

It will be noted that the pages 26 in the binders 20 can be turned without interference after the binder has been opened to the position of Fig. 2. The quick and instant opening of the device makes a very attractive attention commander

for the salesmen and the material is displayed so quickly and easily that it holds the attention during the sales argument.

The entire loose leaf binder can be quickly and easily slid from the tongues **30** and replaced with other binders containing other material as the occasion requires.

The case may be made of any desired materials. Soft, flexible leather has been found very satisfactory. The binder may also be of any material provided the back boards **18** and **19** are of sufficient rigidity to support themselves in the open position.

While a specific form of the improvement has been described and illustrated herein, it is desired to be understood that the same may be varied, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed and desired secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A self-opening portfolio comprising: two case members; a first hinge member securing said case members together; spring means for opening said first hinge member; an upstanding edge around each case member which when said case members are brought together forms a complete enclosure; latching means for securing said case members together; a pair of hinged-together binder boards; a second hinge member securing the bottom edge of one of said boards to one of said case members at right angles to the first hinge member, the hinge between the binder boards overlying the first hinge member in parallel relation therewith; and spring means for opening the second hinge member simultaneously with the opening of the first hinge member.

2. A self-opening portfolio comprising: two case members having upstanding edges around their periphery; a fastener around said upstanding edges for securing the two case members in the completely closed, sealed position; a first hinge member securing said two case members together; a second hinge member secured to one case member and extending at right angles to the first hinge member; a pair of binder boards; a third hinge member connecting said boards together, one of said boards being secured to said second hinge member; spring means for opening said second hinge member; means for limiting the amount of opening thereof; and means for securing the other binder board to the other case member.

3. A self-opening portfolio comprising: two case members having upstanding edges around their periphery; a fastener around said upstanding edges for securing the two case members in the completely closed, sealed position; a first hinge member securing said two case members together; a second hinge member secured to one case member and extending at right angles to the first hinge member; a pair of binder boards; a third hinge member connecting said boards together, one of said boards being secured to said second hinge member; spring means for opening said second hinge member; means for limiting the amount of opening thereof; and a latch member on the other case member for detachably engaging the other binder board so that when the two case members are opened said binder will also be opened.

4. A self-opening portfolio comprising: two case members having upstanding edges around their periphery; a fastener around said upstanding edges for securing the two case members in the completely closed, sealed position; a first hinge member securing said two case members together; a second hinge member secured to one case member and extending at right angles to the first hinge member; a pair of binder boards; a third hinge member connecting said boards together, one of said boards being secured to said second hinge member; spring means for opening said second hinge member; means for limiting the amount of opening thereof; and spring means for opening said first hinge member.

5. A self-opening display portfolio comprising: a binder hinge; two back boards on said binder hinge; a case consisting of two hinged together case members; edge members around the periphery of each case member; a hinge for securing the two case members together; a fastening device for securing the two case members together; a spring hinge securing one board of said binder to one of said case members so that when said case is opened said board will be elevated; and a detachable fastening device securing the other board of said binder to the other one of said case members so that said binder will be opened simultaneously with the opening of said case members when desired.

6. A self-opening display portfolio comprising: a binder hinge; two back boards on said binder hinge; a case consisting of two hinged together case members; edge members around the periphery of each case member; a hinge for securing the two case members together; a fastening device for securing the two case members together; a spring hinge secured to one extremity of one of said case members; and means for detachably securing one of said back boards to said spring hinge.

7. A self-opening display portfolio comprising: a binder hinge; two back boards on said binder hinge; a case consisting of two hinged together case members; edge members around the periphery of each case member; a hinge for securing the two case members together; a fastening device for securing the two case members together; a spring hinge secured to one extremity of one of said case members; means for detachably securing one of said back boards to said spring hinge; tongues extending from said spring hinge; and tongue receiving members secured to one of said back boards for attaching the latter to said spring hinge.

8. A self-opening display portfolio comprising: a binder hinge; two back boards on said binder hinge; a case consisting of two hinged together case members; edge members around the periphery of each case member; a hinge for securing the two case members together; a spring hinge securing one board of said binder to one of said case members so that when said case is opened said board will be elevated; a latch plate secured to the other case member; a latch rod slidably mounted on said latch plate; a receiving sleeve secured on the other binder board to engage the said latch rod.

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